

## First Reading

*A Reading from the book of the prophet Malachi*

Thus says the Lord God

See, I am sending my messenger  
to prepare the way before me,  
and the Lord whom you seek  
will suddenly come to his temple.

The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-indeed,  
he is coming,  
says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming,  
and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap;

<sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,  
and he will purify the descendants of Levi  
and refine them like gold and silver,  
until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness,

<sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem  
will be pleasing to the LORD,

as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup> Then I will draw near to you for judgment;  
I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers,  
against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely,  
against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages,  
the widow, and the orphan,  
against those who thrust aside the alien  
and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

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## Second Reading

*A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood,  
he himself likewise shared the same things,  
so that through death

he might destroy the one who has the power of death,  
that is, the devil,

<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery  
by the fear of death.

<sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels,  
but the descendants of Abraham.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters  
in every respect,

so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest  
in the service of God,  
to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.  
<sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered,  
he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

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## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*This child is the light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.*

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke*

When the time came for their purification  
according to the law of Moses,  
they brought him up to Jerusalem  
to present him to the Lord

<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord,  
'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),

<sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice  
according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,  
'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;  
this man was righteous and devout,  
looking forward to the consolation of Israel,  
and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit  
that he would not see death  
before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

<sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;  
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,

to do for him what was customary under the law,  
<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,  
'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother  
were amazed at what was being said about him.

<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,

'This child is destined  
for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be opposed  
<sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-  
and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'  
<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna  
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.  
She was of a great age,  
having lived with her husband for seven years after her  
marriage,  
<sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.  
She never left the temple  
but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and  
day<sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God  
and to speak about the child  
to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.  
<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything  
required by the law of the Lord,  
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.  
<sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O Christ**

## The Prayers

**Those for whom prayer has been asked:**

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For those on active service in places of danger.

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Dick and Caroline Seed our CMS Missionaries

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The Migrant and Refugee Crisis

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The visitors to the Top Up shop and Family First

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<sup>3</sup> Angela Parobij, Sonia Steggall, Sam, Debbie Shaves,  
<sup>2</sup> Celia, Brian, Drew, Stephen Abbott,  
Harold & Rita Appleton

<sup>1</sup> Linda Best, Margaret Starsmore, Rosie & John Gray,  
Kay Dinsdale, Lesley Horrocks, Chris Newman,  
Gemma, Samuel Thurlow  
and those known privately to us.

**Those who have died recently**

Peggy Bean

Sybil Barrow

**We remember the anniversary of death of**

Sheila Wells 1 February 2017

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