

A Call to Prayerful Discernment

The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord

February 2, 2026

This liturgy may be used in a church in a home, other locations, or an online gathering. It is appropriate for those attending to bring an unlit candle and igniter with them to the service.

Gathering in Silence *The space begins dim or quiet. If online, invite participants to have a candle nearby (optional).*

Silence is invited.

The leader begins,

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A brief silence is kept.

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 4:5-6*

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lighting of a Candle[s] *A candle is lit. If available, it would be appropriate to use a candle from a baptism.*

As the candle is lit the one appointed says,

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light no darkness can overcome.

*If in a group with others it is appropriate for other candles to be lit while an appropriate hymn is sung. Or the following is said or sung.
A link to a musical version is included.*

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UJBnJ_g5K0

O gracious light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

A Collect for the Occasion

Almighty and everliving God, we come to your temple as Simeon and Anna did— carrying hope, weariness, longing, and trust. Open our eyes to recognize your presence among us, and give us grace to receive the light you freely give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 42:1–9

Silence.

Psalm Psalm 84 or Psalm 27:1–6 *spoken responsively*

Gospel Luke 2:22–40

A Brief Reflection or Homily or Silence

Consider the question: What is God calling you to do at this time to be a light for God's love in this world?

Canticle: The Nunc Dimitis

The leader invite the saying of the Nunc Dimitis with these words

With Simeon, we confess that God's promise is trustworthy, even when the world feels fractured.

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who wait for God's peace.

God of light, strengthen your Church to bear Christ faithfully,
not in fear or triumph, but in humility, courage, and love.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of justice and mercy, we pray for this nation in a time of division, violence, fear, and distrust.

Where anger has hardened hearts, soften us.

Where lies distort truth, steady us.

Where power is abused, protect the vulnerable.

Where hope feels thin, rekindle it.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of consolation, be near to all who feel unsafe in their communities,
to those threatened by violence,
to those weary of watching the news,
and to those who feel forgotten or expendable.

Let your light be their shelter.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, guide those entrusted with authority in our nation and communities.
Give them humility, moral courage, and a love of truth stronger than the desire for power.
Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

At this time your prayers of intercession, supplication and thanksgiving are invited silently or aloud.

God of peace, receive these prayers, spoken and unspoken.
***And grant us grace to wait with hope, to speak with truth,
and to walk as children of light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing of Light

May the light of Christ dwell in our hearts.
May the light of Christ steady us when the world feels unsteady.
May the light of Christ guide our steps in paths of peace.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Having seen the light of Christ, go in peace.
Thanks be to God.