

COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God,

clothed in majesty,

whose beloved Son

in substance of our flesh;

grant that we may be presented to you

with pure and clean hearts,

by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

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. 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 fullers' soap; 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. Then the offering of

Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to

the LORD as in the days of old and as

in former years. Then I will draw near to

you for judgement; 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.

PSALM Psalm 24:1-6 7-end

R The Lord of hosts: he is the king of

glory.

[The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,

the compass of the world and all who

dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas

and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

R

"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,

or who can rise up in his holy place?"

"Those who have clean hands and a pure

heart,

who have not lifted up their soul to an

idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie; *R*

"They shall receive a blessing from the

Lord,

a just reward from the God of their

salvation."

Such is the company of those who seek

him,

of those who seek your face, O God of

Jacob. *R*

Lift up your heads, O gates;

be lifted up, you everlasting doors;

and the King of glory shall come in.

"Who is the King of glory?"

"The Lord, strong and mighty,

the Lord who is mighty in battle." *R*

Lift up your heads, O gates;

be lifted up, you everlasting doors;

and the King of glory shall come in.

"Who is this King of glory?"

"The Lord of hosts,

he is the King of glory." *R*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

Since the children share flesh and blood,

Jesus 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, and free those

who all their lives were held in slavery

by the fear of death. For it is clear that

he did not come to help angels, but

the descendants of Abraham. 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.

Because he himself was tested by what he

suffered, he is able to help those who are

being tested.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Luke.

When the time came for their purification

according to the law of Moses, Mary and

Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem

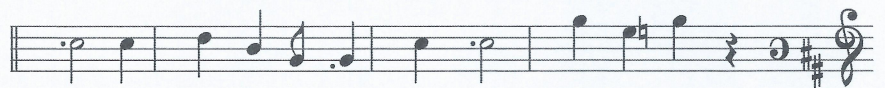
in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn

male shall be designated as holy to

the Lord", and they offered a sacrifice

according to what is stated in the law of

The Lord of hosts: he is the king of glo ry.



POST COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and

Anna,

who lived to welcome the Messiah:

may we, who have received these gifts

beyond words,

prepare to meet Christ Jesus

when he comes to bring us to eternal

life;

for he is alive and reigns, now and for

ever.

of God was upon him.

strong, filled with wisdom, and the favour

Nazareth. The child grew and became

returned to Galilee, to their own town of

required by the law of the Lord, they

When they had finished everything

looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

to speak about the child to all who were

she came, and began to praise God and

prayer night and day. At that moment

but worshipped there with fasting and

of eighty-four. She never left the temple

her marriage, then as a widow to the age

lived with her husband seven years after

of Asher. She was of a great age, having

Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe

own soul too. "There was also a prophet,

revealed – and a sword will pierce your

that the inner thoughts of many will be

and to be a sign that will be opposed so

the falling and the rising of many in Israel,

mother Mary, "This child is destined for

Simeon blessed them and said to his

at what was being said about him. Then

child's father and mother were amazed

for glory to your people Israel. "And the

a light for revelation to the Gentiles and

prepared in the presence of all peoples,

have seen your salvation, which you have

according to your word; for my eyes

are dismissing your servant in peace,

praised God, saying, "Master, now you

the law, Simeon took him in his arms and

to do for him what was customary under

the parents brought in the child Jesus,

Simeon came into the temple; and when

the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit,

would not see death before he had seen

revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he

the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been

forward to the consolation of Israel, and

man was righteous and devout, looking

Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this

young pigeons. "Now there was a man in

the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves or two