

logo©2004 by R Fulwiler

Seasoning the Seasons™

The Institute for Christian Formation, Inc.

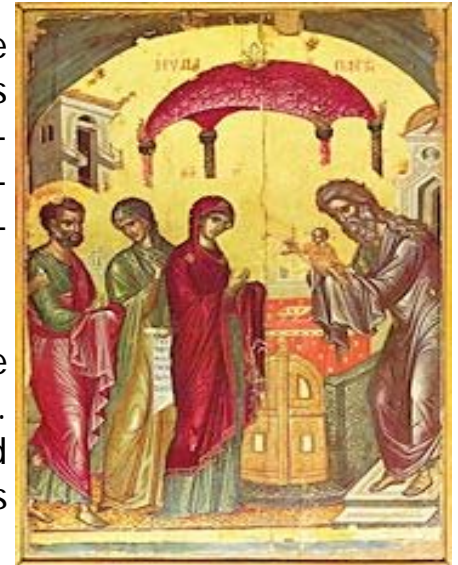
Text©2009 by Sandra A. Chakeres. All rights reserved.

The Presentation of the Lord

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

On February 2nd, forty days after Christmas Day, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Christians have been celebrating this feast for over 1600 years! A Christian pilgrim to Jerusalem around the year 400 gives an account of the celebration of this feast, complete with a procession with candles.

The Presentation of the Lord is a feast of light. On the fortieth day after his birth, Jesus is brought to the Temple. Here Jesus, the Messiah, meets, or encounters, Simeon and Anna, elderly Jews who had been awaiting the Messiah's birth. You can read the story of this encounter in Luke 2:22-38. Upon taking the infant Jesus into his arms, Simeon praised and blessed God. Simeon knew he could now die in peace, because he had seen the Messiah whom he had awaited - the child who was the Light of the World. Simeon's words of blessing (Luke 2:29-32) are a canticle or a song of praise. To this day, around the world, we recall these words of Simeon every night in the Liturgy of the Hours when we pray the Canticle of Simeon at Compline, or Night Prayer.



Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Iconographer: Theophanes the Cretan
Mid 16th Century
Stavronikita Monastery, Mt. Athos



And every year on February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, we recall in a special way that Jesus is the Light of the World when candles are blessed at our Church's liturgy. We then bring some of these candles to our homes for use in prayer throughout the year. Place these candles in a special place in your home, having an adult light a candle at the beginning of prayer. Remember that just as Jesus is the Light of the World, we, the baptized, are called to let our light shine for others as we bring Christ to the world!