

<b>The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple</b>	
<b>Presence of God</b>	Considering how God looks at me.
<b>History</b> Luke 2, 21-35, 7	<p>21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. 22_ When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23_ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord", 24_ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."</p> <p>25_ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26_ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27_ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29_ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30_ For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31_ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32_ a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." 33_ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35_ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."</p>
<b>Petition</b>	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly!</i>



<p><b>Contemplation</b></p>	<p><b>Baby Jesus is offered to the Lord in the Temple</b></p> <p><i>In the times of Jesus, tradition mandated that every son had to be presented before the Lord by his parents to thank God for this new life. Thus, they recognized that life was a gift from God that should always be accepted and received, and that we owe our lives to Him. Do you think that Jesus offered his life to the Father? Of course!!! He always did!!</i></p> <p><i>That day, among the many people who visited the Temple was a young couple, very humble, wearing plain clothes (probably a little shabby because they were coming directly from a stall), holding a little baby boy wrapped in a blanket in their arms... Who were they? Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.</i></p> <p><i>Let's close our eyes and imagine Mary and Joseph... how excited and happy they felt because they were going to present their son before God the Father.</i></p> <p><b>Vv 25-33 Old Simeon</b></p> <p><i>Every day a very old man called Simeon went to the Temple to pray to God. He always asked God the same thing: to meet the Savior God had promised his people for centuries before dying.</i></p> <p><i>Did God listen to Simeon's prayer? Yes, He did!! Because one day, when he went to the Temple as usual, a very humble and young couple came in holding the Savior in their arms. How do you think that Simeon recognized the Savior? Because there were some rays coming out of Jesus? Because he looked powerful? No!!! God made Simeon feel that in his heart, just like He did with Elisabeth when Mary visited her and her son, John the Baptist, leaped for joy in her womb!</i></p> <p><i>Do you think Simeon was happy?</i></p> <p><i>Let's close our eyes and imagine Simeon's joy. Imagine Simeon taking baby Jesus in his arms, the world's Savior in his arms!!!!!!!!!!!! Imagine what he told God the Father.</i></p> <p><b>Vv 34-35 Simeon's prophecy</b></p> <p><i>Simeon was wise and when he gave Mary the baby he told her that a lot of people would believe in her son and others wouldn't and he prophesied that her Son would give his life in a very painful way, so, so painful that she would feel like a sword piercing her own soul.</i></p> <p><i>Mary always remembered his words and when Jesus was hanging from the cross; she remembered this prophecy: Jesus would save us by making a very painful sacrifice out of love.</i></p> <p><i>Let's close our eyes and imagine the way Mary felt when she realized that her Son would have to suffer so much for us.</i></p>	<p><b>This contemplation gives us the chance to stress the importance of defending the life of children to be born. Each life is a miracle of God and should be received in every circumstance, because if that life has started growing in their mother's womb, it's because God has dreamt about it since the beginning of the times and wants to look after it. Our life is not our own, our life belongs to God.</b></p> <p><b>Simeon always tuned in to God's wishes. He had devoted his whole life to His service and his heart was pure. He paid attention to the things God told him and also trusted Him with his wishes.</b></p> <p><b>Jesus came to this world to save us but he met resistance. But He will stay with us even at the expense of His own pain. His Mother will also suffer as a consequence of this, which is why Mary is known as co-redeemer.</b></p>
<p><b>Colloquy</b></p>	<p><i>Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear Him in the silence of our hearts.</i></p> <p><i>Like Simeon, hold baby Jesus in your arms; He is the Savior of the world, and thank God the Father who invites us to become His Son's friends.</i></p> <p><i>If you want, you can make a request or thanksgiving prayer to God.</i></p>	