

# Gathering Rite and Dismissal for the Feast Day of The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple.

## Gathering of the Community

*The congregation may gather in a location outside of the worship space. Vigil candles are distributed to the people. The rite begins with the following greeting.*

*Presider:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*The Presider continues:*

Beloved in Christ, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father, and revealed as the salvation prepared by God before the face of all peoples. In their old age, Simeon and Anna recognized him as the promised One, a light to lighten the gentiles, and the glory of his people, Israel. On this day, we join our voices with their praise and testimony, that we may be heralds of his promise and reflect his light to the world.

*A hymn or refrain may be sung by soloist, choir, or congregation as the vigil candles held by the people are lit. Candles for use in home and church (except the Paschal Candle) over the year ahead may also rest on a table nearby to be included in the blessing of the candles.*

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Presider:* Blessed are you, O God, source and spring of everlasting light.  
You make our darkness bright as the noonday,  
for with you is the well of life,  
and in your light we see light.  
Pour into the hearts of your faithful people  
the brilliance of your eternal splendor,  
that we, who by these kindling flames  
illumine this temple to his glory,  
may shine with his radiance,  
dispelling the darkness of injustice

with the light of his righteousness,  
and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal city  
where you live and reign,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*People:*       **Amen.**

*The candles on the table may be sprinkled with holy water.*

*The Presider continues,*

*People:*       We wait for your loving-kindness, O God,  
                  **In the midst of your temple.**

*Presider:*     Open to us the gates of righteousness,  
*People:*       **That we may enter and give thanks to the Lord.**

*Presider:*     The Lord is our light and our salvation.  
*People:*       **Alleluia! O, come, let us worship.**

*A gathering hymn, song, or refrain is sung. If gathered in a place outside of the  
worship space, all process into the worship space during the singing.*

*The gathering rite concludes with The Collect of the Day.*

**At the conclusion of the Liturgy, the following blessing and dismissal may be  
used:**

*The People responding with the texts in bold print, the Presider says,*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
fill you with radiance  
and scatter the darkness from your path.  
**Amen.**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,  
gladden your eyes and warm your hearts.  
**Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near  
to guide your feet into the way of peace.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God:  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*The Deacon, or in the absence of a deacon, another liturgical leader sings or says,*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**