



The Meeting of the Lord in the Temple Which the Holy Church Celebrates on February 2

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to the God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exodus 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Simeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master..." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of reading prayers of purification.

The Apodosis of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord is usually on the 9th of February. This, however, may vary if the Feast falls within the period of the Triodion. Should this occur, the Typicon should be consulted for specific information concerning the Apodosis of the Feast.

Rest from labour. Fish allowed.

Dismissal Hymn. First Tone

REJOICE, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

Kontakion. First Tone

THOU Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth, and didst bless Symeon's hands as was meet by anticipation hast even now saved us, O Christ God. But grant peace in the midst of wars unto Thy commonwealth and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved, O only friend of man.

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