

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Bruno II
to the Parish of St. Ambelain
on Tuesday, February 2, 2016*

YEAR C - PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Greetings brethren, welcome to the Presentation of the Lord, also referred to as Candlemas. The importance of today comes from our Gospel reading, when Christ is first presented in the Temple. But we must start with our first reading to show the true significance of His presence.

Our Scripture readings today begin with the Book of Allogenes and an appeal to the Lord for "the knowledge of ourselves: where we have come from, where we are going, and what we should do in order to live." This knowledge has been revealed to man throughout our earthly inhabitation. This is proven in our Gospel when we are given two examples, that of a man and a woman, who had revealed to them prior to Christ's incarnation what the future held as well as how to live until that future arrived. Symeon and Hanna both probably cried out in their prayers for answers, prayers which were echoed in our first reading; "O God, You who abide in the great Aeons, hear my voice, have compassion on me, and save me from all evil. Look down upon me and hear me while I am in this desolate place. Now let your ineffable light shine upon me forever and ever. Amen." Their prayers, and ours, were answered, completed when Christ was presented in that Temple so long ago. He came to tell us where we come from, where we're going, as well as what we should do in order to live.

It is our second reading which explains why it was necessary for Christ to incarnate. To defeat death, he needed to descend and conquer it. To bring mankind back into union with God, he had to descend into the world in the likeness of man so he could guide us through the Divine Mysteries: Baptism and the Eucharist being the two most important. As our second reading states: "For this reason he was obligated in every respect to become like his brothers, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, in order to make atonement for the sins of the people. For because he himself has been tested and suffered, he is able to help those being tested." Symeon sums up Christ's appearance best when he says, "...my eyes saw your salvation, which you prepared before the face of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

There is one last point I would like to make. Christ was the answer to Symeon's particular revelation. He is the answer to our revelations. But before he can be the answer, he must be the revealer. All of us are wandering blindly, but as our Gospel states, Christ is "a light for revelation." He opens our eyes to the truth of the world. This blindness we suffer is why, even after Christ's incarnation, that revelation is still necessary. What Christ's descent into the world did is make the way home open and more accessible to all. It is Christ who washes away the scales of ignorance, and it is Christ who then leads you down the path of righteousness.

I would like to end this homily today in an unusual fashion. Please join me in Holy Prayer, reciting our first reading taken from the Book of Allogenes: "O Lord God, You who are above all the great Aeons...[continues to...] forever and ever. Amen."