

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Thursday, February 2, 2017*

CANDLEMAS  
PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Greetings brethren. We are meeting in a special Mass today to celebrate the Feast of Candlemas, honoring the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem. The retaining of this feast day by the ACP shows that although we are Gnostics, we nevertheless recognize the importance of acknowledging the traditions of the psychic Church, even while seeking to fully spiritualize it.

The rite of the presentation is a purely psychic, that is to say demiurgic rite. This is obvious from the very beginning of our reading from Luke which speaks of the purifications "according to the law of Moses." Thus, the "Lord" that Jesus is presented to is the Demiurge, made further evident by the blood sacrifice demanded.

Now, this does not mean that the Most High God played no part in this event. For, we read of Symeon, upon whom rested the Holy Spirit, and who praised God - a distinction made by Luke. That is, when speaking of the mandates of the Mosaic law, we read of Jesus presented to the Lord, and of the blood sacrifice mandated by "the law of the Lord." But the man upon whom the Holy Spirit dwelled gives blessing to God. Further, the holy prophetess Hanna is found praising God. Thus, Symeon and Hanna represent the Gnostics in the midst of the religion of the psychics.

It is perhaps wrong to say, however, that it was a purely psychic religion. It was really more of a mixed religion; though not mixed in a properly harmonious way which places the pneumatic over the psychic. Rather, it was principally psychic, that is to say Demiurgic, with glimmers of gnosis shining through in spite of the obscurity of the archontic forces. There is rarely, if ever, a purely Demiurgic cult. We don't need to get into all the reasons why this is so; it will suffice merely to acknowledge it.

It should be encouraging to us that even among these darkest of blood-soaked rites, the light of Gnosis may shine through. How much more should it shine through from within the Church that Christ perfected! So must we each strive to make ourselves into perfected members of that body and to radiate that vivifying pneumatic light.

Since we have a somewhat abbreviated service today, I will stop here. But in closing I would like to call to everyone's attention our First Reading from Allogenes, which is a beautiful and powerful Gnostic prayer, suitable for any number of liturgical or theurgical applications, or for opening and/or closing any private workings in your personal sanctum.