

## **The Meeting of the Lord (Candlemas) – 2 February**

*At the Lity:*

*TONE ONE*  
*(by Anatolios)*

The Ancient of Days, who in times past gave Moses the Law on Sinai, appears this day as a babe. As Maker of the Law He fulfils the Law, and according to the Law He is brought into the temple and given over to the Elder. Simeon the righteous receives Him, and beholding the fulfilment of the divine ordinance now brought to pass, rejoicing he cries aloud: ‘Mine eyes have seen the mystery hidden from the ages, made manifest in these latter days,<sup>1</sup> the Light that disperses the dark folly of the Gentiles without faith and the Glory of the newly-chosen Israel. Therefore let Thy servant depart from the bonds of this flesh to the life filled with wonder that knows neither age nor end, O Thou who grantest the world great mercy.’

*SAME TONE*  
*(by John the Monk)*

Today He who once gave the Law to Moses on Sinai submits Himself to the ordinances of the Law, in His compassion becoming for our sakes as we are. Now the God of purity as a holy child has opened a pure womb, and as God He is brought as an offering to Himself, setting us free from the curse of the Law and granting light to our souls.

*TONE TWO*  
*(by Andrew Pyros)*

Him whom the Ministers at the Liturgy on high entreat with trembling, Simeon has now received below in his earthly arms, and he proclaims the union of the Godhead with mankind. Seeing the heavenly God as mortal man, he makes ready to withdraw from earthly things, and raises his cry in joy: ‘Glory to Thee, O Lord, who hast revealed to those in darkness the Light that knows no evening.’

*SAME TONE*  
*(by Germanos)*

Today Simeon takes in his arms the Lord of Glory whom Moses saw of old in the darkness, when on Mount Sinai he received the tables of the Law. This is He who speaks through the prophets; He is the Creator of the Law. This is He whom David announced; He is fearful to all, yet has great and abundant mercy.

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<sup>1</sup> Colossians 1:26.

*SAME TONE*  
(by Germanos or John the Monk)

The holy Virgin offered in the Holy Place Him who is Holy, giving Him to the minister in holy things. And Simeon with exceeding joy received Him in his outstretched arms, and he cried out: 'O Master, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, O Lord.'

*SAME TONE*  
(by the same)

The Creator of heaven and earth is carried today by holy Simeon the Elder in his arms: and he said in the Holy Spirit: 'Now am I set free, for I have beheld my Saviour.'

*SAME TONE*  
(by Anatolios or Andrew of Jerusalem)

Today Simeon the Elder enters the temple rejoicing in spirit, to receive in his arms Him who gave the Law to Moses and who Himself fulfils the Law. For Moses was counted worthy to see God through darkness and sounds not clear;<sup>1</sup> and with his face covered<sup>2</sup> he rebuked the unbelieving hearts of the Hebrews. But Simeon carried the pre-eternal Word of the Father in bodily form, and he revealed the Light of the Gentiles, the Cross and the Resurrection; and Ann was proved to be a prophetess, preaching the Saviour and Deliverer of Israel. Unto Him let us cry aloud: O Christ our God, through the Theotokos have mercy upon us.

*TONE FOUR*  
(by Andrew of Crete)

Today the holy Mother who is higher than any temple, has come into the temple, disclosing to the world the Maker of the world and Giver of the Law. Simeon the Elder receives Him in his arms and, venerating Him, he cries aloud: 'Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, for I have seen Thee, the Saviour of our souls.'

Glory be to the Father ...

*TONE FIVE*  
(by the same)

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 19:16–19.

<sup>2</sup> Exodus 34:29–33.

Search the Scriptures, as Christ our God said in the Gospels.<sup>3</sup> For in them we find Him born as a child and bound in swaddling clothes, laid in a manger and fed upon milk, receiving circumcision and carried by Simeon: not in fancy nor in imagination but in very truth has He appeared unto the world. To Him let us cry aloud: Glory to Thee, O pre-eternal God.

Both now ...

*SAME TONE*  
(*by Germanos or Anatolios*)

The Ancient of Days, a young child in the flesh, was brought to the temple by His Mother the Virgin, fulfilling the ordinance of His own Law. Receiving Him, Simeon said: 'Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, O Lord.'

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<sup>3</sup> John 5:39.