

## **PRESENTATION OF CHRIST**

### **COLLECT**

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:

grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **FIRST READING**

**Malachi 3.1–5**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi*

Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 12.1-4**

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL****Mark 5.1-20****Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia****You are the Christ everlasting born for us all of a Virgin,****You have conquered death, opened heaven to all believers.****Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia***Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark****Glory be to you, O Lord***

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain; for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid. Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord***Praise be to you, O Christ****Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia****POST COMMUNION**

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who lived to welcome the Messiah:

may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,

prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.