

The Presentation of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the Temple



Luke 2:22–40

Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth to complete Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and to perform the redemption of the firstborn, in obedience to the Law of Moses (Leviticus 12, Exodus 13:12-15, etc.).

Meeting Simeon



- Simeon had been promised that "he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26).
- Simeon prayed the prayer that would become known as the Nunc Dimittis, or Canticle of Simeon, which prophesied the redemption of the world by Jesus: "Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace; according to Thy word: for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: to be a light to lighten the gentiles and to be the glory of Thy people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32).

Simeon prophesied to Mary



- "Behold, this child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which is spoken against. Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34-35).

The elderly prophetess Anna



- She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.[*] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Have you met Jesus?

- The most important thing that can happen to a person is to encounter Jesus, who loves us, who has saved us, who gave his life for us.

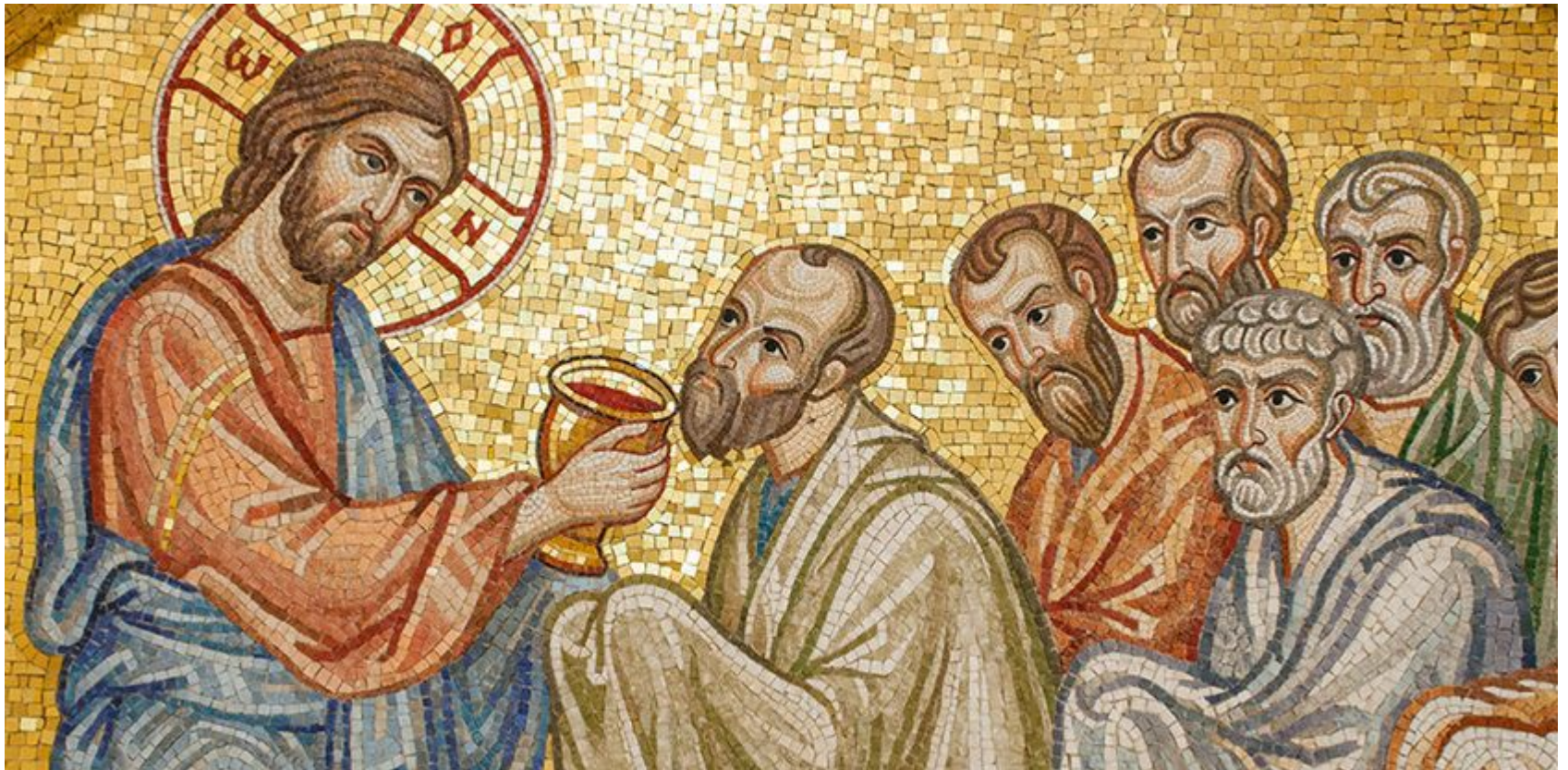


How do we encounter Jesus in our daily life?

- First, Jesus is alive in His word, the inspired Gospel stories and the living tradition of our church.



Second, we meet Jesus in the sacraments, especially in regular participation in the Eucharist.



And third, we meet Jesus in our service to those in need.



To meet Jesus and be transformed by that encounter is the hope and joy of every person who is searching for God.



What is your story?

- Do you believe in Christ?
- Who is He for you?
- When did you meet Jesus Christ?
- How did it happen?

