



The Presentation at the Temple

The icon of the Presentation of the Lord depicts the moment, recorded in the Gospel of Luke (2:22–40), when Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, forty days after His birth, in obedience to the Law of Moses. In this meeting, the Temple itself is fulfilled: the living God is presented in His house.

In the center, we see Simeon the Righteous, an elder who had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had beheld the Messiah. He receives the Christ child with veiled hands, a gesture of reverence, and expresses awe and gratitude because recognizes the fulfillment of hope of the Messiah.

The Virgin Mary offers Jesus to Simeon with a solemn face signifying both her obedience to the Law and her awareness, foreshadowed by Simeon's prophecy, that her Son's mission will be marked by suffering: "a sword will pierce your own soul also" (Luke 2:35).

Joseph carries the pair of doves required for the offering of the poor. This simple detail emphasizes the humility of the Holy Family, who come in poverty yet bring to the temple the Lord of heaven and earth.

Anna the Prophetess, a widow advanced in age holds the scroll that proclaims her testimony about the Child.

This icon of the Presentation is rich in meaning:

- Fulfillment of the Law: Christ is presented according to the Law, yet He Himself is the fulfillment of the Law.
- Simeon proclaims Christ as the Light, symbolizing His manifestation to all nations.
- Mary's offering of her Son foreshadows the Passion.

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