

## **The Lord's Entry into the Temple**

*In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.*

On this day we celebrate the feast of presenting the Lord Jesus Christ to the temple after 40 days of His blessed birth. St Joseph the righteous and His mother, the Virgin Mary, present Him in the temple to fulfil the Mosaic Law.

St Luke the Evangelist says that when His parents brought Him into the temple according to the custom of the law, the just and devout Simeon the elder took Him in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word: for my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and Glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2: 29-32)

Simeon was one of the 70 elders who translated the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek. This was in the time of Ptolemy Soter in the year 296 BC, who was sent by the will of God to Jerusalem. He brought 70 men from among the learned Jewish teachers and scholars and commanded them to translate the Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek.

He put every two of them in an isolated place so that they would not agree on one translation, and to ensure a correct text after comparing all of the translation. Simeon the elder was one of them. When Simeon was translating the verse from Isaiah 7:14, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." He was afraid to translate that a virgin would conceive, because the king would mock him. He wanted to translate the virgin as a 'young lady'. He was disturbed because of this inaccurate translation and God revealed to him a vision that he would not die before he would see Christ the Lord born of a virgin.

This was fulfilled and he lived about 300 years. When Christ was born, he was very well advanced in age and his sight dimmed.

When he carried the child Jesus in his hands, his sight came back to him, and the Holy Spirit told him, "This is the child that you have been waiting for." He blessed God and said, "Now You are letting you servant depart in peace according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelations to the Gentile and Glory to Your people Israel." (Luke 2: 28-32)

(extract: 8 Amshir)