**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 02 – IV WEEK O.T. [C]**

**PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

**"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."**

**For the children of Israel, the offer and the ransom of the firstborn was true memorial of what the Lord had worked for their fathers with the power of his arm: The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "Consecrate to me every first-born that opens the womb among the Israelites, both of man and beast, for it belongs to me." "When the LORD, your God, has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, which he swore to you and your fathers he would give you, you shall dedicate to the LORD every son that opens the womb; and all the male firstlings of your animals shall belong to the LORD. Every first-born of an ass you shall redeem with a sheep. If you do not redeem it, you shall break its neck. Every first-born son you must redeem. If your son should ask you later on, 'What does this mean?' you shall tell him, 'With a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, that place of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed every first-born in the land of Egypt, every first-born of man and of beast. That is why I sacrifice to the LORD everything of the male sex that opens the womb, and why I redeem every first-born of my sons.' Let this, then, be as a sign on your hand and as a pendant on your forehead: with a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt." (cf. Ex 13, 1-16) One celebrates memory in a living, real way. Not only has the Lord delivered the Fathers, but He has also delivered Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The eternal memory and thankfulness goes to the Lord who delivered. Jesus has been spared and this is why He is to be offered and ransomed.**

**The living, current, present remembrance of the Passover is only a part of this moment lived by Jesus, Mary and Joseph in the temple. It is what happens before and after the offer and the ransom of Jesus that deserves our every attention. The Old Simeon reveals to the entire world who Jesus is: “The Salvation of the Lord, the Light that must enlighten the Lord before all people, the glory of the people of the Lord.” This means that if Christ Jesus is not made shone by his body that is the Church today, the world remains without any Salvation and the Lord is surrounded by darkness. But also the ancient people of God remains without glory. Not only they remain without any glory, it might even be justified in his non-receiving of Christ Jesus. Instead, if the body of Christ, that is the Church enlightens the Father, God, before every man, he, too, will put himself into account and will say: “Truly Jesus is the Christ of God”, and he might reach the conversion and the faith in the Gospel, offering the Father the greatest glory, since he will acknowledge the great gift of the true Salvation.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 2,22-40**

**When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.**

**Jesus is true sign of contradiction so that the thoughts of many hearts are unveiled. Before his Word, if you accept Him, you attest to be of good will and enter the salvation. His word is of redemption and of life. If the Word of Jesus is not accepted, then one is with the heart of stone and the Word of Jesus is for the perdition. The Word of Jesus is true Word of God, Word of life for life, Word of death for death. Even the Mother of Jesus will suffer the martyrdom. It will be the martyrdom of the soul, not that of the body. Mother pierced at the feet of the cross, help us imitate you in faith.**