

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



When circumstances permit, the congregation gathers at a place apart from the church so that all may go into the church in procession. Unlighted candles are distributed to the congregation before the service. A server holds the celebrants candle until the procession begins. The congregation stands facing the celebrant.

**Priest:** Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Priest:** Dear People of God: Forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall the holy day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the Law of Moses and at the same time going to meet his faithful people.

Led by the Holy Spirit of God, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized Christ as their Lord, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the Holy Spirit of God, may we now go to the house of God to welcome Christ the Lord. There we shall recognize him in the Breaking of Bread until he comes again in glory.

**Priest:** Let us pray:

God our Father, source of all light, today you revealed to Simeon your Light of revelation to the nations. Bless ✠ these candles (and this oil) and make them holy, that we who observe their light in your temple may come with joy to the Light of Glory Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. *Amen.*

The following canticle is then sung or said, during which the candles are lighted.

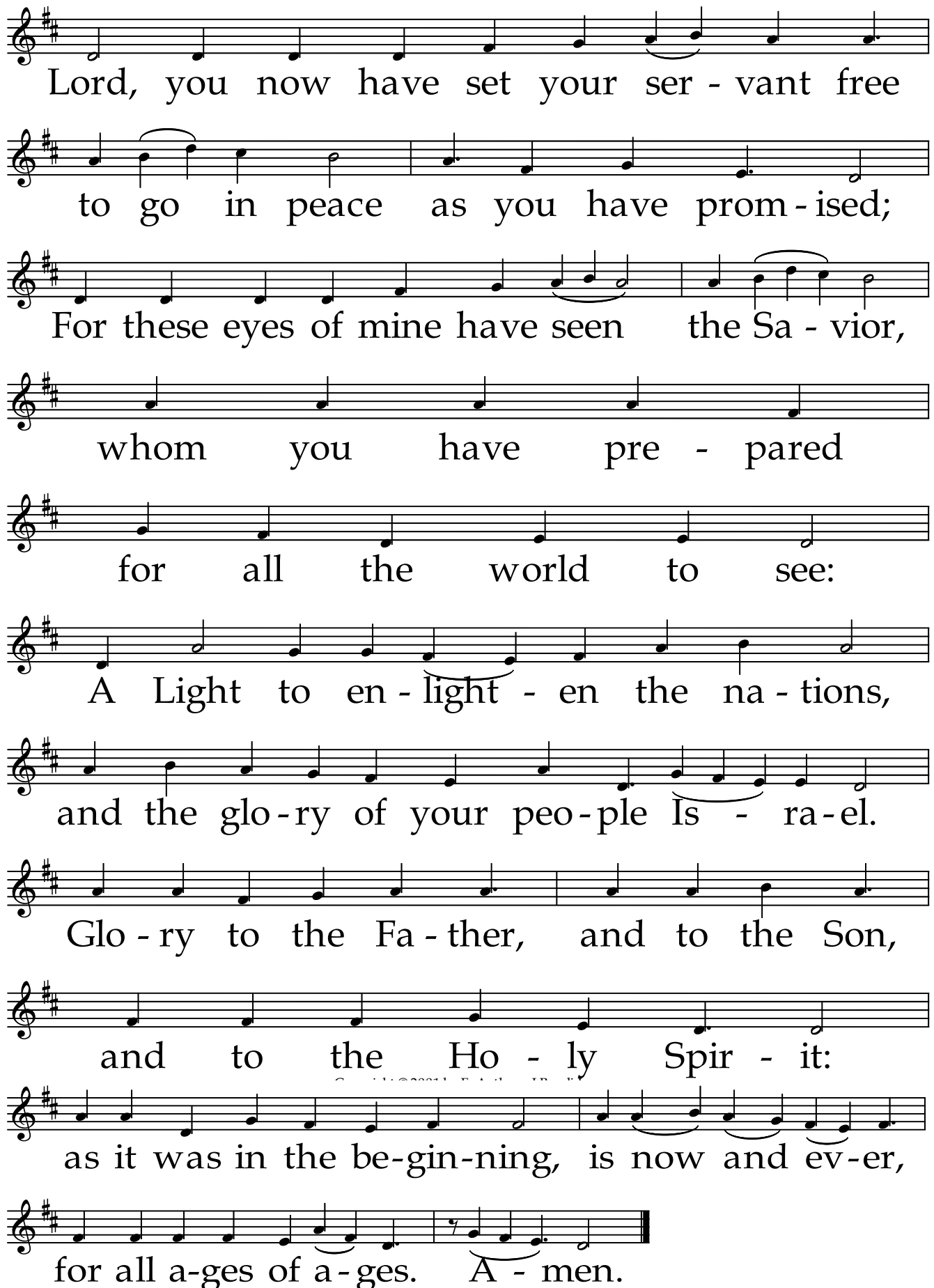
**Antiphon:**



A Light to en - light - en the na - tions,  
and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is - ra-el.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the antiphon, with lyrics 'A Light to en - light - en the na - tions,'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is - ra-el.' The music is written in a simple, clear style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

## Canticle:



Lord, you now have set your ser - vant free  
to go in peace as you have prom - ised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Sa - vior,  
whom you have pre - pared  
for all the world to see:  
A Light to en - light - en the na - tions,  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,  
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er,  
for all a - ges of a - ges. A - men.

**Antiphon:**

A Light to en - light - en the na - tions,  
and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is - ra-el.

**Priest:** Let us pray.

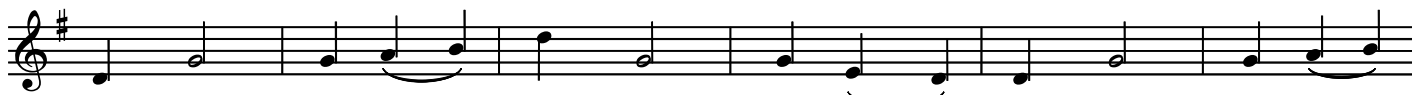
God our Father, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, and come to the Light that shines for ever, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

During the procession, all carry lighted candles; and all sing the hymn below.

**Deacon:** Let us go forth in peace.

**People:** In the name of Christ. Amen.



O Si - on o - pen wide your gates, Let sym - bols dis -  
No more the sim - ple flock shall bleed; Be - hold, the Fa -  
A - ware of hid - den de - i - ty, the low - ly vir -  
The ag - èd Sim - eon sees at last his Lord, so long  
But si - lent knelt the mo - ther blest, of the yet si -  
All glo - ry to the Fa - ther be, all glo - ry to



- ap - pear; A priest and vic - tim, both in one,  
- ther's Son Him - self to His own al - tar comes,  
- gin brings Her new - born babe, with two young doves,  
de - sired, And An - na wel - comes Is - rael's hope,  
- lent Word, And pon - d'ring all things in her heart,  
the Son, All glo - ry, to the Ho - ly Spirit,



the Truth him - self, is here.  
for sin - ners to a - tone.  
her hum - ble off - er - ings.  
with ho - ly rapt - ure fired.  
with speech - less praise a - dored.  
while end - less a - ges run.

## At the Door to the Church:

**Priest:** Let us pray.

O God, you have made this day holy by the presentation of your Son in the Temple, and by the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that we, who delight in her humble readiness to be the birth-giver of the Only-begotten, may rejoice for ever in our adoption as his sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*

## The Introit

Suscepimus, Psalm 48:9/1,[2,3,7]

TONE

VII



**Antiphon:** We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God, \*  
in the midst of your temple;  
Your praise like your Name, O God, ↓  
reaches to the ends of the earth; \*  
your right hand is full of justice.

**Psalm.** Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; \*  
in the city of our God is his holy hill.

[Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth,  
is the hill of Zion, \*  
the very center of the world  
and the city of the great King.

God is in her citadels; \*  
he is known to be her sure refuge.

As we have heard, so have we seen, ↓  
in the city of the LORD of hosts,  
in the city of our God; \*  
He has established her for ever.]

**Gloria Patri.** Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, ↓  
and to the Holy Spirit, \*  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever,  
for all ages of ages. Amen **Antiphon:**

The Kyrie / Litany

The Gloria

## The Collect:

Almighty and Ever-living God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages.  
*Amen.*

The congregation now extinguishes their candles.

## The First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

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.

## The Gradual *Quam dilecta*, Psalm 84:1, verses 1,2/3,4/5,6 -tone v



*The antiphon is chanted first and then repeated by the congregation where indicated.*

**Antiphon:** How dear to me is your dwelling, \* O Lord of hosts!

- V. My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; \*  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- V. The sparrow has found her a house ↓  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God. **Antiphon**
- V. Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- V. Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims way. **Antiphon**
- V. Those who go through the desolate valley ↓  
will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- V. They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion. **Antiphon**

**Epistle: Hebrews 2:14-18**

Since the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.



## Alleluia

## Lumen ad revelationem, Luke 2:32



Al-le-lu-ia, Al - le-lu-ia, Al-le - lu - ia,  
A Light to en - light - en the na - tions,  
and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is - ra-el.  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al - le-lu-ia, Al-le - lu - ia,

### The Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 Candles are lit and held during the Gospel

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your

salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by 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.

## The Nicene Creed

Offertory *Diffusa est, Psalm 45:2, [11-18]*

STONE VII



Grace flows from your lips, \* because God has blessed you for ever.

["Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; \*  
forget your people and your father's house.

The king will have pleasure in your beauty; \*  
he is your master; therefore do him honor.

The people of Tyre are here with a gift; \*  
the rich among the people seek your favor."

All glorious is the princess as she enters; \*  
her gown is cloth-of-gold.

In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; \*  
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.

With joy and gladness they are brought, \*  
and enter into the palace of the king.

"In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; \*  
you shall make them princes over all the earth.

I will make your name to be remembered  
from one generation to another; \*  
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever." ]

### **The Prayer over the gifts:**

Almighty God, accept the joyful offering of your Church, and grant that your Son may shine in us as the Light in these holy Mysteries Through the same Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages *Amen*

**The candles are lit now for the Anaphora to the end of the Lord's Prayer.**

### **The Preface of the Presentation (Ambrosian)**

*Priest:* It is truly right and just, our joy and helpful to salvation, that we, always and everywhere give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and eternal God:

Through the Mystery of the Word made Flesh,  
You have shone with a new and radiant light upon the  
eyes of mind and heart.

Christ your Son who is one with you eternally,  
was this day presented in the temple  
and revealed by the Holy Spirit as the glory of Israel  
and the Light of all peoples.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with  
Angels and Archangels and with all the company of  
heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the  
glory of your Name:

### **Before the Pax Domini:**

*Priest:* May Almighty God, Who willed that [on this day] His  
only-begotten Son should be presented in the Temple, in  
the substance of our flesh, make your lives resplendent  
with all good works, through the gift of His benediction.

*People:* Amen

*Priest:* May He, Who willed His Son to be the servant of the Law,  
that the Law might be fulfilled, enrich your minds, with  
all spiritual understanding of His Law.

*People:* Amen

*Priest:* May you abound in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and, by  
the grace of God, give back to God, not a sacrifice of  
doves, but the offerings of charity and purity of life.

*People:* Amen

*Priest:* May the Lord God Almighty, Whose glorious Kingdom  
endures for ever, be pleased to bestow these blessings  
upon you; and...

*Priest:* The ✠ Peace of The Lord be always with you.

*People:* And with your spirit.

## The Communion *Viderunt oculi, Luke 2:30, 31*

TONE V



These eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

### The Postcommunion Collect:

O God for whom we wait, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon, who did not die till he had welcomed the Messiah. Complete in us your perfect will, that we in Christ may share in your eternal kingdom, for he is Lord for all ages of ages *Amen*

### All Prophets Hail Thee

All prophets hail thee, from of old announcing,  
by the inbreathed Spirit of the Father,  
God's Mother, bringing prophecies to fullness, Mary the maiden.

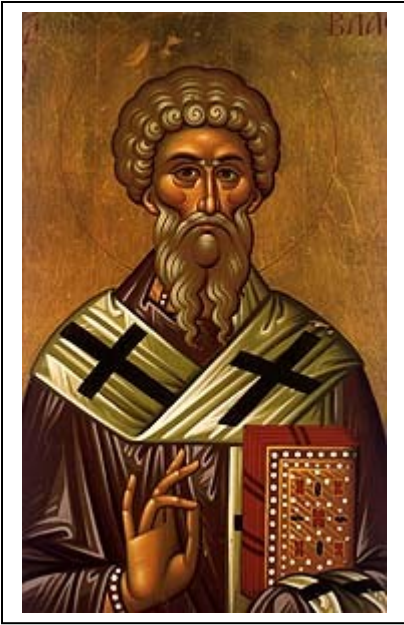
(Thou the true Virgin Mother of the Highest,  
Bearing incarnate God in awed obedience,  
meekly acceptest for a sinless offspring, purification.)

In the high temple Simeon receives thee,  
takes to his bent arms with a holy rapture  
that promised Savior, vision of redemption, Christ long awaited.

(Now the fair realm of Paradise attaining,  
and to thy Son's throne, Mother of the Eternal,  
raised all glorious, yet in earth's devotion, join with us always.)

Glory and worship to the Lord of all things  
pay we unresting, who alone adored,  
Father and Son and Spirit, in the highest. reigneth eternal.

*In some parishes it is appropriate for pastoral reasons, that after the Liturgy. the Blessing of Throats is anticipated for the following day:*



## The Blessing of Throats

*Where it is the custom, the faithful come forward at the end of the Liturgy, and the following blessing is given today. In the following or similar words, the celebrant prepares those present for the blessing:*

Today we commemorate Saint Blaise, who was bishop of Sebaste in Armenia in the fourth century. Before being martyred, he is said to have healed a boy who was choking. Since the eighth century, Saint Blaise has been venerated as the patron of those who suffer from diseases of the throat. We pray in a special way today for protection from afflictions of the throat and from other illnesses. The blessing of Saint Blaise is a sign of our faith in God's protection and in his love for us and for the sick.

*Then facing the altar upon which the crossed candles lay, he says:*

### **BLESSING OF CANDLES ON THE FEAST OF ST. BLAISE:**

*V.* Our help is in the name of the Lord.

*R.* Who has made heaven and the earth.

O God most powerful and most kind, Who created all the different things in the world by the Word alone, and Whose will it was that this Word by Which all things were made should become incarnate for the remaking of mankind; And Who are great and limitless, worthy of reverence and praise, the worker of wonders; for Whose sake the glorious Martyr and Bishop, St. Blaise, joyfully gained the palm of martyrdom, never shrinking from any kind of torture in confessing his faith in You. Among other things, You give to him,

the prerogative of curing by Your power every ailment of men's throats. We humbly beg You in Your majesty not to look upon our unworthiness, but, by his merits and prayers be please, in Your awe-inspiring kindness, to bless✠this wax created by You and to sanc✠tify it, pouring into it Your grace; so that all who in good faith shall have their throats touched by this wax may be freed from every ailment of their throats through the merit of his suffering; and, in good health and spirits, may give thanks to You in Your holy Church and praise Your glorious name, which is blessed for ever and ever. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who with You lives and reigns, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for all ages of ages. **R.** Amen.

*Two candles, crossed in the shape of a St. Andrew's Cross, are placed on the throat of the recipient, or held above the head of each, and the celebrant says:*

*Latin*

Per intercessionem Sancti Blasii, episcopi et martyris,  
liberet te Deus a malo gutturis, et a quolibet alio malo.

*And making the Sign of the Cross over the recipient, he says*

In nomine Patris, et Filii ✠, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

*English*

Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, (and by our prayers), may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness.

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
*Amen*