

## **The Feast of Presenting** **the Lord Christ in the Temple**

*(The eighth day of the blessed month of Amshir)*

On this day the Coptic Church 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, presented Him in the temple, to fulfil the Mosses Law.

St. Luke the Evangelist says that when His parents brought Him 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 the Glory of Your people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-32).

Simeon was one of the 70 elders who translated to Old Testament from Hebrew to Greek. This was in the time of Ptolemy Soter in the year 296 B.C., 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 (this translation is known as the Septuagint in regard of the 70 elders. This is considered to be the oldest translation, present in the museums for the Old Testament).

He put every two of them in an isolated place so they would not agree on one translation, and to ensure a correct text after comparing all of the translations. 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 Emmanuel,” 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 in 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 three hundred 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, “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 the Glory of Your people Israel.” (Luke 2:28-32).

At that day they were coming to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the law of the Lord ”a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons (Luke 2:24)

and if we go back and see what was written in the law of Moses with respect to that we find it written: “And when the days of her (the mother) purifications are completed, for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the doorway of the temple of meeting a one year old lamb for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledoves for a sin offering but if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean (Leviticus 12:6,8).

Of course, when Joseph and the Virgin Mary were coming to offer the 2 turtledoves or 2 pigeons, this shows how they were very poor, and also this a proof of how Jesus was humbling Himself to the last extent.

The Coptic Church celebrates 7 major Holy feasts and 7 minor Holy feasts for the Lord.

### **The major Holy feasts**

1. Annunciation (29<sup>th</sup> of Baramhat 7<sup>th</sup> of April)
2. Christmas (29<sup>th</sup> of Kiahk 7<sup>th</sup> of January)
3. Theophany (Epiphany) 11<sup>th</sup> of Toba 19<sup>th</sup> of January
4. Palm Sunday
5. Easter ( the Sunday after Friday following the Jewish Passover to show the fulfilment of the symbol by the fact)
6. Ascension (after 40 days from the Easter)
7. Pentecost ( after 10 days from the Ascension)

### **The minor Holy feasts**

1. Feast of circumcision ( 6<sup>th</sup> of Toba 14<sup>th</sup> of January)
2. Wedding of Kana of Galilee (13<sup>th</sup> of Toba 21<sup>st</sup> of January)
3. Presentation into the temple (8<sup>th</sup> of Amshir 15<sup>th</sup> of February)
4. Covenant Thursday
5. First Sunday of Pentecost (Thomas Sunday)
6. Coming of Lord Jesus into Egypt 24<sup>th</sup> of Bashance 1<sup>st</sup> of June)
7. The transfiguration feast 13<sup>th</sup> of Mesra 19<sup>th</sup> of August)

# The Lent

(by: Father Samaan Saint Paul)

The Lent consists of 54 days(8 weeks). Every Sunday has a special Bible reading and a special occasion.

- **Pre-Lent Sunday (Preparing Sunday) (Matthew 6:1-18)**

When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; .....

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret;.....

But when your fast, anoint your head and wash our face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret;.....

*And your father who sees in secret will reward you.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday The Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 6:19-33)**

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well”.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday The Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)**

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God”.

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday The Prodigal Son ( Luke 15:11-32)**

“For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found”.

- **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday The Samaritan Woman (John 4:1-42)**

“Every one who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life”

- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday The Lame Man (John 5:1-18)**

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent Me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life”.

- **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday The Baptism (John 9:1-41)**

“One thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see”

- **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday Palm Sunday (Matthew 21:1-17)(Mark 11:1-11)**

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest! ”

- **8<sup>th</sup> Sunday the Easter (John 11: 25)**

“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live”

**Christ is Risen Truly He is Risen**