

...he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

Malachi 3:3

Text of Psalm 1

Manuscript leaf, Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself...

Psalm 84:3a



Hummingbirds with Nest -- Martin Heade, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

...where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

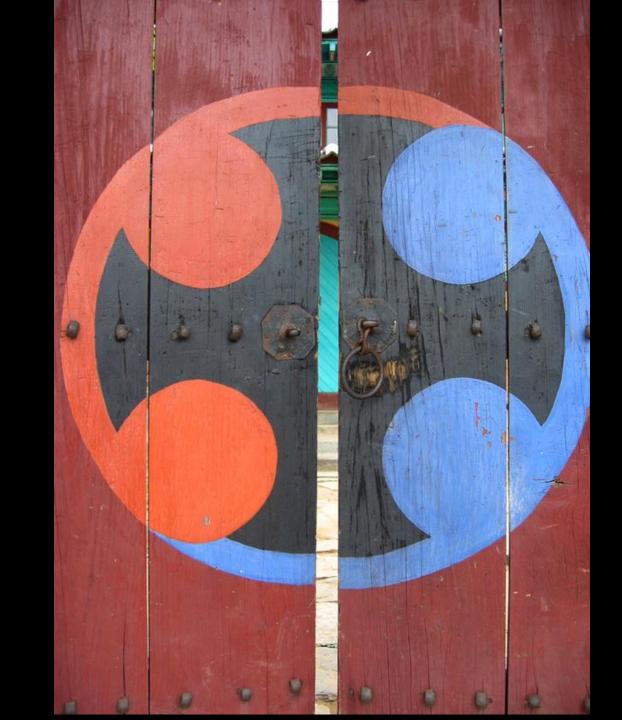
Psalm 84:3b



Blessing of the Birds -- Harry Mileham, St. Mary's Church, Norfolk, England

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

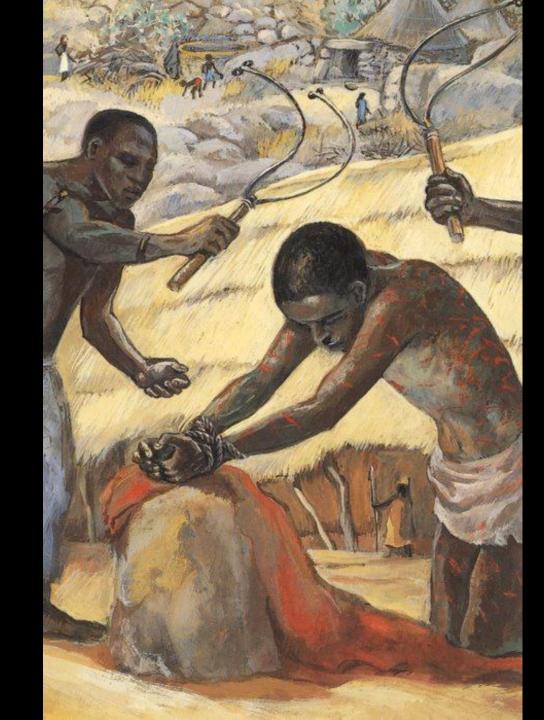
Psalm 24:7



Front Gate

Ganghwa Anglican Church Ganghwa, Korea Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

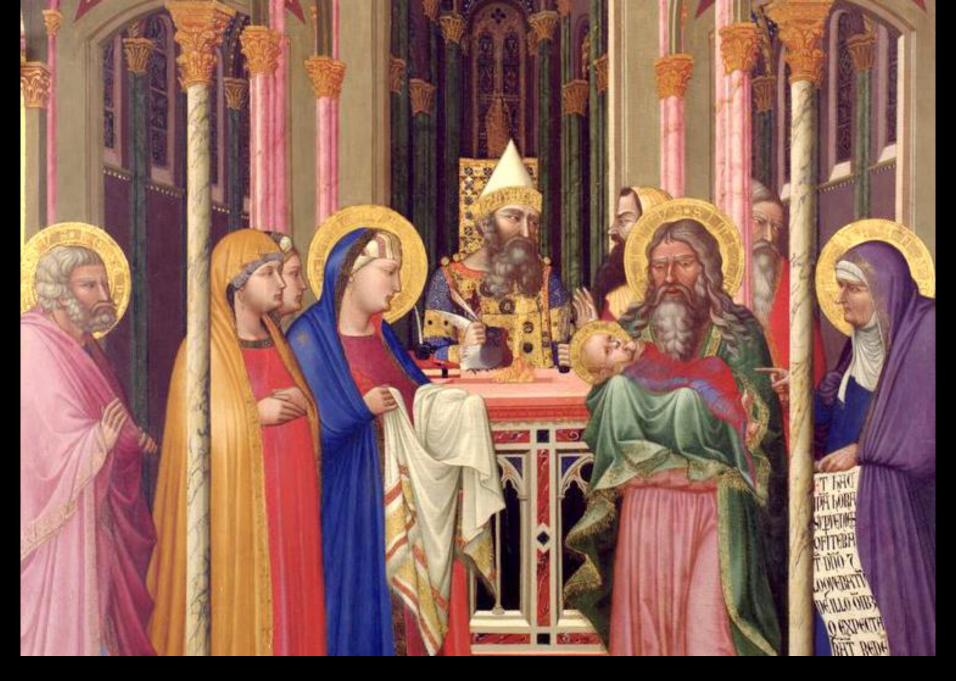
Hebrews 2:18



The Flagellation

JESUS MAFA, Cameroon

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord...



Presentation in the Temple -- Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Uffizi, Florence, Italy

and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."



Presentation in the Temple

G. Van den Eeckhout Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

Luke 2:28-29



Simeon's Song of Praise (Nunc Dimittis) -- Aert de Gelder, Mauritshuis, Hague, Netherlands

for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

Luke 2:30-31



Presentation in the Temple -- Bernward's Doors, Hildesheim Cathedral, Hildesheim, Germany

...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."



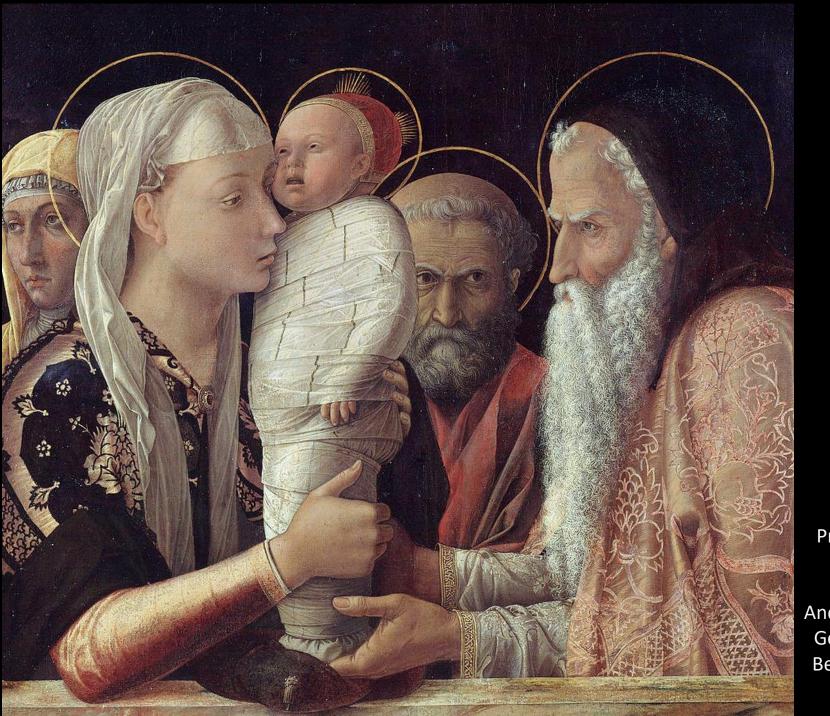
Presentation in the Temple -- Abbey of St. Walburga, Virginia Dale, CO

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...



Presentation in the Temple

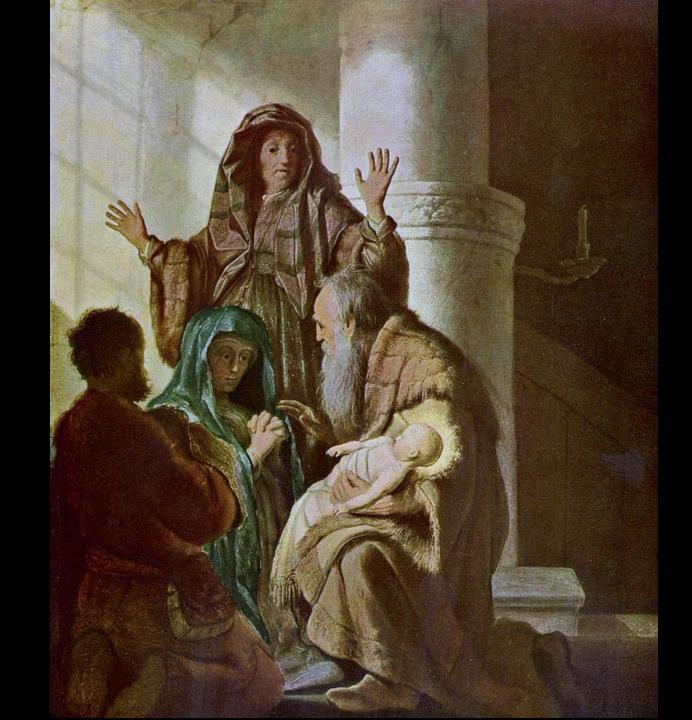
Musee National du Moyen Age, Paris, France so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too."



Presentation in the Temple

Andrea Mantegna Gemaldegalerie Berlin, Germany There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age...

Luke 2:36a



Anna and Simeon in the Temple

Rembrandt, Kunsthalle Hamburg, Germany She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

Luke 2:37b



Presentation in the Temple -- Fra Angelico, Museum of San Marco, Florence, Italy

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.



Anna, the Prophetess

Palatine Chapel, Palermo, Sicily The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.



Christ in the House of His Parents -- John Everett Millais, Tate Britain, London

Credits

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