Divine Liturgy, February 2
The Meeting of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ With Simeon and Anna

This feast is celebrated forty days after the birth of the Savior on December 25. Saint Sophronius of Jerusalem wrote about this feast: “Let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light. Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the One who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal Light.”

Hymn

melody: Hark, the herald angels sing (Mendelssohn)

1. Zion, see your Savior come now of old and new the sum;
2. See the old man; hear him cry: Now, Lord, let Your servant die!
3. Lord, we too shall bear Your light in a world so filled with night;

Not as monarch, grand and great, not with king-ly pomp and state:
Your salvation You have shown, Light for ev-’ry na-tion known!
Saved by You, our infant Lord, now we sing with one ac-cord:

But as child of pov-er-ty, in His moth-er’s arms is He:
An- na, too, takes up the song, prais-ing God both loud and long,
Fa-ther, who has sent Your Son, Son, who has the vic-t’ry won,

Law ful-filled, His ran-som paid, now in Sim-eon’s arms is laid.
Thank-ing God for faith-ful Word, tell-ing what they’d seen and heard.
Spir-it blest, the source of grace, bring us all to see Your face!

Je-sus, light! Your praise we sing, Is-rael’s Lord and Gen-tiles' King!
The Lord has made his salvation known; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.

Rejoice, Theotokos, Virgin full of grace; for from you has shone forth the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, enlightening those who are in darkness. Rejoice also, you just elder; you received in your arms the liberator of our souls, who grants us resurrection.

Cantor

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and ever. Amen.
Christ our God, through your birth you sanctified the virgin's womb and blessed the hands of Simeon as was proper. Now you have come and saved us. Give peace to nations at war and strengthen our government.

You, alone, love us all.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Verse: For he has looked with favor on the humility of his servant; from this day forward, all generations will call me blessed.

Alleluia - Tone 8 (Luke 2: 29, 32)

Verse: Now you may dismiss your servant, O Lord, in peace according to your word.

Verse: A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.
Virgin Theotokos, the hope of Christians, protect, watch and save those who have placed their hope in you.

O faithful, let us recognize the figure of Christ foreshadowed in the letter of the Law which says: Every male child who opens the womb is sanctified to God. Therefore, the first-born Word and Son of the Father without beginning, the first-born Son of a mother who had not known man: him, let us exalt.

Or the following:

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let-ter of the Law, which says: Ev'-ry male child who
o-pens the womb is sanc-ti-fied to God. There-fore,
the first-born Word and Son of the Fa-ther with-out be-gin-ning, the first-born Son of a moth-er
who had not known man-him, let us ex-tol.

Communion Hymn (Psalm 115: 4)
Refrain

I shall take the chal-ice, the chal-ice of sal-va-tion and call up-on the
name of the Lord, and call up-on the name of the Lord.

Refrain

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!