“Lumen ad revelationem Gentium.”

Today, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph carry the Christchild into the Temple. Together, as man and wife, they solemnly present the Price of Redemption to the Lord—and this in a two-fold sense.

In the first place, they observe the Law of Moses: “Tout mâle premier-né sera regardé comme consacré au Seigneur,  et pour offrir en sacrifice, ainsi qu’il est dit dans la loi du Seigneur, une paire de tourterelles ou deux petites colombes” (Luke 2:23-24). God had delivered Israel from the hand of the Egyptians by striking down the first-born of every creature—only those houses signed with the Blood of the Lamb were spared. In thanksgiving for this miraculous redemption, every Israelite was to present a lamb, together with the first-born son, to re-deem (literally: buy back) the child. By Divine Providence, the Son of God was born into a poor family, and so the price was reduced to two doves: one of the signs of peace between God and Man granted to Holy Father Noah after the Flood.

Of course, in the second and more profound sense, Christ *Himself* is the Price of Redemption—*He* is the Lamb presented to God by Mary and Joseph today—and this not for the redemption of Himself, or even for the redemption of one tribe or nation, but rather for the redemption of the whole world—even as Holy Simeon prophesized: “Lumen ad revelationem gentium”: “lumière qui doit éclairer les nations” (Luke 2:32).