

The Confirmation of Simeon and Anna

Promise: we are able to behold our Savior and so depart in peace

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15; Psalm 111; Col. 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40
(First Sunday after Christmas, 12/26/21)

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”— v. 29-32

Lead In – The *Nunc Dimittis* is the Latin for ‘now let depart’ and it refers to the song, or canticle, of Simeon. We employ the *Nunc Dimittis* appropriately, on some Sundays of the Church Year, for the Post Communion Canticle. And this canticle is always used with Compline, the Prayer Office at the close of the day. This morning we continue to commemorate the Holy Nativity with the added confirmation of two devout and elderly persons, Simeon and Anna.

I. The Holy Family Is At the Temple on the 40th Day

- A. Leviticus 12 and understanding purification laws...
- B. Exodus 13 and understanding dedication of firstborn

II. What We Know About Simeon and Anna

- A. He was righteous and devout, because...
- B. Anna was a prophetess! She too was devout...

III. Special Attention to Simeon’s Words

- A. Salvation is in a person who is a light to all nations...
- B. This, the baby Jesus, is the true glory of Israel! ...
- C. The opposition and suffering involved in salvation...

Parting Shot – Think of the patience and perseverance of people like Simeon and Anna. Life could not have been easy for either of them. But they believed in the promises in the Books of Moses and by the Hebrew prophets. They put their hope in and waited for *the consolation of Israel*, or in the words connected with Anna, *the redemption of Jerusalem*. And not only were they not disappointed, but they became uniquely instrumental in confirming that the birth of Jesus is indeed the birth of mankind’s Savior. They are instruments of the Holy Spirit to be able to help us to depart in peace as well.

Lv 12:1-4 The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If a woman conceives and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days. As at the time of her menstruation, she shall be unclean. And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. Then she shall continue for thirty-three days in the blood of her purifying. She shall not touch anything holy, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed.

Firstborn Dedication: Reminder of 10th plague, Israel as the firstborn among the nations, and all households represented...

Waiting for the consolation of Israel // waiting for the redemption of Israel

Lk 2:29-32 Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2:22-40 ESV

Jesus Presented at the Temple

²²And 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 ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹*“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”*

³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “*Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.*”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Ge 12:3c And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Is 49:6 I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

Ex 24:7 Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.

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