

The Joy of Departing In Peace

Promise: beholding Jesus in faith results in peace with God

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Ps 111; Galatians 4:4-7; [Luke 2:22-40](#)

(First Sunday after Christmas, 12/27/20)

Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word.— v. 29

Lead In – This will be the third sermon in a row that I have called attention to liturgical elements in the lessons. On the 4th Sunday in Advent it was the “Hail Mary” and Mary’s Song, the Magnificat. On Christmas Eve it was harmonious voice of the angelic host with the Gloria in Excelsis. And now this morning, on the 1st Sunday after Christmas it is the Nunc Dimittis...

I. Likely Order of Events Surrounding Jesus’ Birth

- A. Shepherds only, not Magi soon after birth...
- B. Matthew’s wise men came many days later...
- C. Matthew’s flight to Egypt before Nazareth...

II. The Holy Couple at Least 40 Days In Bethlehem

- A. Hometown is not always the place of birth...
- B. From a stable to a house, eking out a living...
- C. The occasion for creating quite a buzz in Jerusalem!

III. Two Devout Senior Citizens Awaiting Consolation

- A. Holy Spirit uses Simeon to play a very special role...
- B. Simeon was given a very specific promise...
- C. There is only one way any of us can depart in peace!

Parting Shot – One of the options for the Post Communion Canticle is the Nunc Dimittis. What an appropriate way to depart from the Divine Service, our eyes, ears, and mouth having beheld our salvation. Truly we can depart in peace. And the Nunc Dimittis is always used at the end of compline, which is the Prayer Service before sleep. Friends, it is a blessed, joyful, and holy thing to be able to depart in peace!

Lk 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Lk 2:16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Mt 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem.

Lk 2:39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

(An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him to take the child and his mother to Egypt and to remain there until he was told otherwise. Then after Herod’s death the angel again appeared to Joseph in a dream)

Luke 2:22-35 ESV

Simeon’s Canticle

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.”

Mt 2:23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Lk 2:38 And coming up at that very hour (the 84yr.old widow, Anna) began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Ro 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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