



Simeon's Song – Luke 2:28-35

Devotion

Does your heart melt when you see a tiny baby? Infants look so precious and vulnerable. Can you imagine the overflowing joy in Simeon's heart when he first saw the baby Jesus, instantly knowing this little being was also the promised Messiah, God's precious Son?

On that special day, Simeon felt the nudge of the Holy Spirit urging him to go to the temple. God had promised him that he would live to see the Lord's Christ (Luke 2:26). Would today be the day? As Mary and Joseph gave the baby Jesus to Simeon, the Holy Spirit revealed to him that the child he held in his arms was the Messiah. With great joy, Simeon praised God with what we now call the "Nunc Dimittis," Latin for "Now [you] dismiss." (Other ways to say this might be, "In peace and joy I now depart," or "Now I can die; my life is complete. I am fulfilled.") Simeon *blessed God and said, "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 2:28b-32).

Mary and Joseph *marveled* (Luke 2:33) at what Simeon said about Jesus. Then Simeon told Mary that Jesus would be a cause of division within Israel (Luke 2:34). Jesus would be a steadfast rock, but also a stumbling stone. One more thing Simeon added to his message, " ... *a sword will pierce through your own soul also*" (Luke 2:35). With these words, Simeon foretold of the suffering that both Jesus and Mary would experience some thirty-three years later. What kind of a "congratulations on your new baby" greeting is that? God revealed some of Jesus' future to Simeon. From the beginning of Jesus' earthly life, His mission as our Savior, and the fulfillment of God's promise to save His people, was revealed.

Meeting the newborn Savior made Simeon's life complete. Knowing and trusting in Jesus as our risen Savior makes our lives complete. In faith, the Holy Spirit daily reassures us that, through Jesus' death, our sins have been paid for. In faith, the Holy Spirit helps us to trust that Jesus' resurrection conquered sin, death, and Satan for us. Through the waters of Holy Baptism, we can be certain that God has washed away our sin and that He has made us His children forever. We can be certain that our eternal home is in heaven. We can be certain when our life on earth ends, we can say with Simeon, "*Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word*" (Luke 2:29).

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Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 2017

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