

## MIDWEEK 6: STUDENT

### THE DYING WORD

Luke 23:46

“Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”

#### INTRODUCTION

“Jesus, in Your Dying Woes” (*LSB* 447:19–21):

Jesus, all Your labor vast,  
All Your woe and conflict past,  
Yielding up Your soul at last:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.

When the death shades round us low’r,  
Guard us from the tempter’s pow’r,  
Keep us in that trial hour:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.

May Your life and death supply  
Grace to live and grace to die,  
Grace to reach the home on high:  
Hear us, holy Jesus.

#### THE WORD

Read Luke 2:22–35 and answer the following:

1. Why did Mary and Joseph bring the child to the temple?
2. Who was waiting in the temple? How is he described?
3. What special revelation had he received from the Holy Spirit?
4. What is the name of Simeon’s prayer and where we do use it in our services?
5. How does the arrival of the child permit Simeon to “depart in peace”?
6. What does Simeon’s prayer say about the child?
7. What hard words does Simeon speak to Mary and Joseph following his prayer?
8. When did the sword “pierce through” Mary’s own soul?
9. Why do you think the Church also prays Simeon’s words with the dying?

Read Luke 23:44–46 and answer the following:

1. What happened to the light as Jesus hung upon the cross?
2. What happened to the curtain and what did that signify?
3. What were Jesus' final words of prayer?
4. What does Jesus' final prayer teach us happens at the moment of death?
5. How have these words continued to shape the way Christians pray when they go to bed at night?
6. How does St. Stephen in Acts 7:59–60 mirror and yet slightly change our Lord's prayer in His final prayers?

### CONCLUSION

To live a blessed life, we must first know how to die a blessed death. Simeon was ready die in peace after having seen that God's salvation had taken on human flesh and blood. He saw the baby, held Him, and rejoiced to know that the death of death, and the forgiveness of sins, lived and breathed upon earth. Comforted by that, Simeon was ready to depart this life in God's peace. Our Lord also teaches us to face death square on. He finished the work His Father gave Him to do and then commended His spirit into the Father's hands and keeping. Because of His redemption, we, too, can confidently place our spirits or souls into God's loving hands and know that He will not forget us, but will vindicate our trust in Him when the day of the resurrection arrives by raising our bodies even as our Lord's body was raised. Until then, our spirits will go on living in His presence and continue to praise and extol Him. Each night as we lay our heads down for sleep we practice for our death: "For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things" (Luther's Evening Prayer).