

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620 www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043 Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

# February 2, 2025 + THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

#### + GATHERING +

#### **Prelude**

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

#### Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming

forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



# **Confession & Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ♣ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all.

If we walk in the light as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

Today we hear the voice of him who speaks to us with authority, the promised Prophet of the Lord.

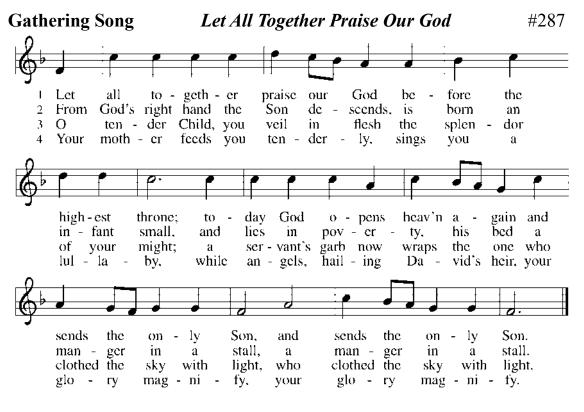
(Silence is kept for self-reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your word and shrink from your will, and so we follow other gods.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and let your light shine upon us, so that your will may be our delight, your ways the path we follow, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

The Son of God has come with great authority; his death effects forgiveness, and his Word promises freedom and life. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



- 5 A wonderful exchange you make: you take our flesh and blood, and in return give us to share the shining realm of God, the shining realm of God.
- 6 Unlock the door again today that leads to paradise; the angel bars the way no more. To God let praises rise, to God let praises rise!

Text & Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561; tr. hymnal version

Text  $\ @$  2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission with subscription SB159191

Music: Public Domain

# **Opening Litany**

As Anna and Simeon were blessed by the presence of Jesus in the Temple, we are blessed by the presence of Jesus in our lives.

As Simeon and Anna's eyes were opened to see Jesus, the salvation of the world,

open our eyes, O God, to the saving power of Jesus.

Jesus is the light of the world revealed to all people for God's glory.

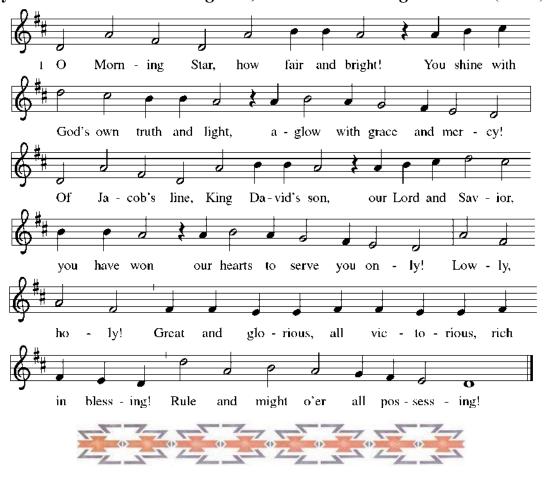
May God's light shine forever.

May God's light always shine through us.

# **Apostolic Greeting**

The boundless grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God the Father, and the light of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.** 

**Hymn of Praise** *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!* #308 (v. 1&5)



5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned, our voices gaily blending! For Christ goes with us all the way today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story! Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin, Augsburg Fortress Music: Philipp Nicolai Used by permission with subscription SB159191

# Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.)
Almighty and ever-living God,
your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple.
May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts
by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### + WORD +

First Reading Malachi 3:1-4

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendants of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

# A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the

LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### Psalm 84

Let us read Psalm 84 responsively.

<sup>1</sup>How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup>My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.

<sup>5</sup>Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

<sup>7</sup>They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup>Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.

<sup>9</sup>Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup>For one day in your courts

is better than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup>For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory; no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk with integrity.

<sup>12</sup>O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!



# **Second Reading**

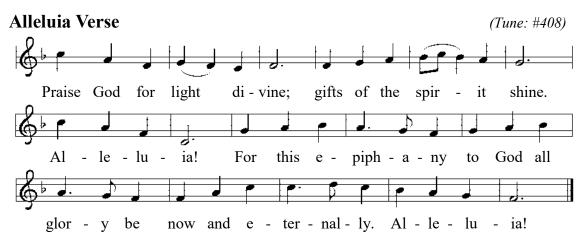
Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.

# A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>14</sup>Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Tune: Public Domain

# **Holy Gospel**

Luke 2:22-40

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

# The Holy Gospel according St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

God, saying,

29"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

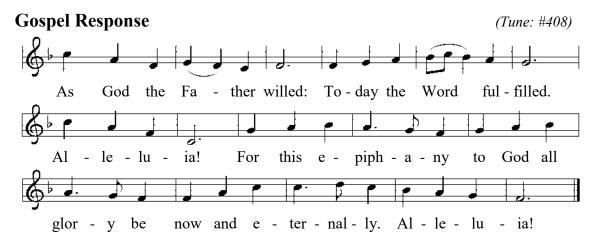
<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

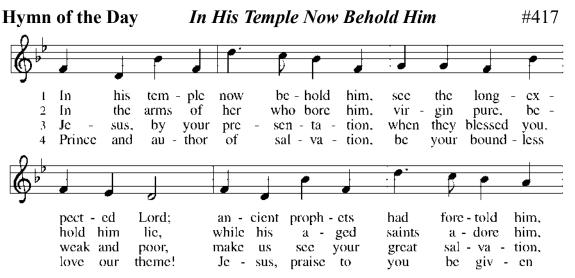
<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

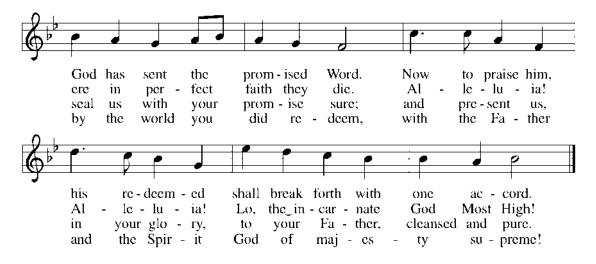
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.



Tune: Public Domain

# Children's Time Sermon





Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879 Public Domain

# **Apostles' Creed**

Living together in trust and hope, let us profess our faith...

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **Prayers of the People**

P With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- A God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child.

  Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- P God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water.
  Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- A God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- P God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness, *especially*... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed, as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace, hear our prayer.

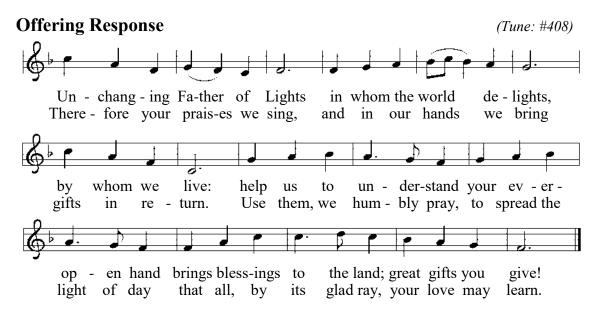
P We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.** 

#### Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

#### + OFFERING +



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#### + MEAL +

# **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God, It is right to give our thanks and praise.



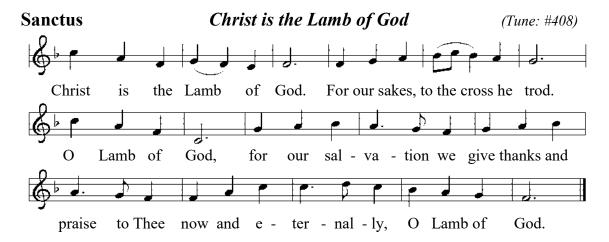
# **Proper Preface**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Tune: Public Domain

# **Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide the Magi to where the Christ was born; and your signs and witnesses in every age and through all the world have led your people from far places to his light.

In his baptism and in his table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who were oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

On the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this in remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice as we proclaim the mystery of faith... Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.





Lamb of God, our might-y Sav - ior all our sins you take a - way.



Lamb of God, by your great fa - vor, Lord, have mer-cy now, we pray.



Lamb of God, our pray'rs a - ttend - ing, nev - er let your mer-cies cease,



But, your Ho - ly Spir - it send - ing, grant us all your gift of peace.

Tune: Public Domain

#### **Distribution**

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion in your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

#### **Distribution Hymn** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence #490 all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand; King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, of old on earth he as stood, Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on way; his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye, pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing hús hand in Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,

the Light of light, de - scend-ing from

the

veil their fac - es to

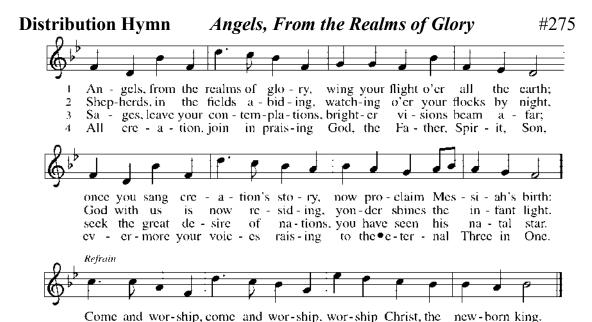
the realms of end - less day,

with cease-less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de-scend - ing comes full hom-age to de - mand. he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n-ly food. comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark-ness clears a - way. "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt. Music: French folk tune, 17th cent. Public Domain



Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4 Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879
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### **Table Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.** 

# **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray... (A brief silence is kept.) Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service,

and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

#### + SENDING +

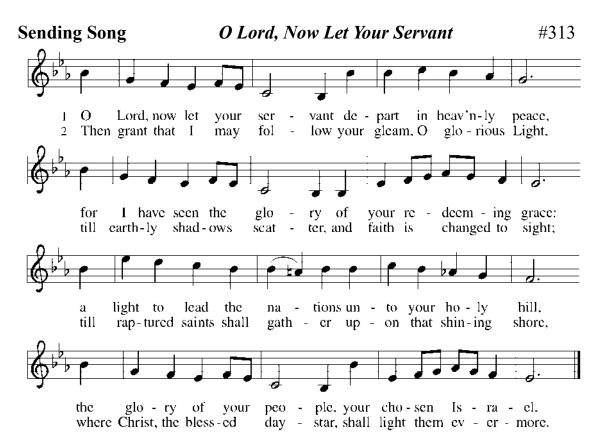
#### Announcements

#### **Benediction**

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name,

+ bless your going out and your coming in, today and forevermore.

#### Amen.



Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis

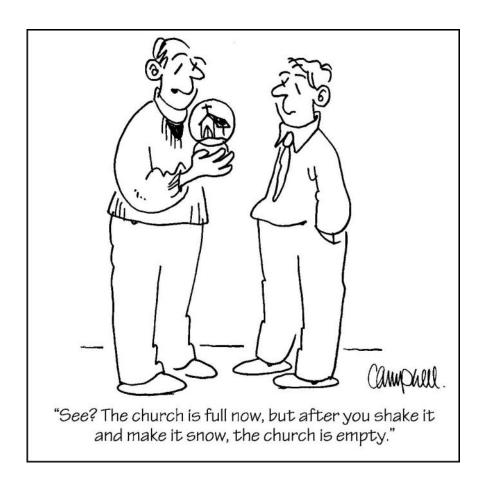
Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-711706 Music: Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version

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#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

## Thanks be to God.



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# Simeon Recognizes Jesus

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luke 2:25-26 (NVI)

Based on Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)



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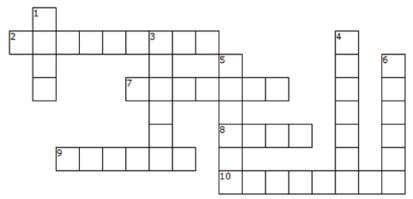
SPIRIT	RIGHTEOUS	PRAISED	COURTS	TEMPLE
CHILD	DEVOUT	LIGHT	JOSEPH	JESUS
PARENTS	SALVATION	ISRAEL	REVEALED	PIGEONS
SIMEON	PROMISED	DOVES	SACRIFICE	MARY

# Simeon Recognizes Jesus

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luke 2:25-26 (NVI)

Based on Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)





#### **ACROSS**

- Deliverance from the penalty of sin
- Something you said that you would do
- The organs for seeing in the faces of humans and animals
- A building dedicated to religious ceremonies or worship
- The town where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived

#### DOWN

- 1. The mother of Jesus
- The homeland of the Jewish people
- 4. A person who is not Jewish
- The man who was promised he would not die until he had seen the Messiah
- 6. The earthly father of Jesus

TEMPLE	SALVATION	MARY	NAZARETH	ISRAEL
SIMEON	JOSEPH	GENTILE	PROMISE	EYES