

My Eyes have Seen Your Salvation

The gospel for this coming Sunday (First Sunday after Christmas) is Luke 2:22-40. This text is the story of the Presentation of baby Jesus at the Temple and the return to Nazareth. Besides Jesus, Mary and Joseph there are two important figures in this reading. They are Simeon and Anna.

Simeon is described as *righteous and devout* (v. 25). The Holy Spirit leads him into the Temple when Mary and Joseph are there to present Jesus to the Lord. Simeon's words, in verses 29-32, express his pleasure at holding Jesus in his arms. We have them at the close of our communion service known as the Nunc Dimittis.

The joy Simeon had was seeing Jesus. In this Christmas season we, too, rejoice at the wonderful news of the babe of Bethlehem. What's more is, we have the privilege of being able to behold him as we hear and read in Word. The Apostle John says in 1:1 "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" It tells flat out that Jesus is that Word. He is God and he was God at the beginning of time. That means that we have seen our salvation. The Christmas season will wind down but, our joy of knowing that heaven is ours will never end. Our eyes will continue to see our salvation.

Simeon also predicts some the powerful resistance that will come about concerning Jesus. That is still true today. But the comforting joy cannot be taken from us and we will be like Anna giving thanks and speaking of Jesus to all who open to hear the good news of redemption.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for coming in great humility to bring us the inordinate news of the salvation you accomplished for the whole world. Keep us steadfast in the saving Word and let it be reflected in our lives. Amen