

## **Luke 2:8-32**

### **The Song of Simeon We Know So Well**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.



Photo: (wreath) Merry Christmas, and may the Holy Spirit shine his light upon all of us and give us peace.

When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

### **Every Day with God**

The story of the shepherds abiding in the fields is a familiar one. In our last lesson, we talked about supernatural events like the fact that Zechariah could not speak

until his son John was born. In this story, we have angels singing to a bunch of sheep herders in the field. How supernatural is that? They went to see the baby Jesus in the stable.

A story that is often not read but gives equal testimony to the birth of Christ is the story of Simeon. The Holy Spirit said to Simeon that he would not die until the Messiah was revealed to him. When he saw the baby Jesus in the Temple, he took him in his arms and said, "For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

This song of Simeon, as you well recognize, is still used liturgically as the Latin Nunc dimittis in our church today. Thanks to Simeon, we have further proof of the birth of Christ.

**Prayer:** Thank you for Simeon's prayer.