

Lk 2:22 Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

2:23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"),

2:24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

2:25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

2:26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

2:27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,

2:28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

2:29 "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;

2:30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation

2:31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

2:32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

2:33 And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.

2:34 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against

2:35 "(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

2:36 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity;

2:37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

2:38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

2:39 So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.

2:40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

From today's sermon.

After our Christmas celebrations, we are now in the closing weeks of the year, 2024, and I hope that this year has been a good one for all of you.

Beginning with Advent, we have seen events that have tested our faith in various ways from God. God showed Zacharias, who had repeatedly said that my wife and I were getting old, that anything is possible.

Even if there are things in our lives that we don't understand, we are shown that our understanding itself is nothing, and that God is far beyond human understanding.

Even for Mary, the way she entrusted herself to God's word without regard for her loved ones' breakdown or personal danger, and the way she cared not only for herself but also for her country and her prayers were very moving.

Even though Jesus, the Messiah, the Redeemer and Savior, was about to be born, "there was no room for them in the drawing room. This reveals the darkness of the human heart.

In today's passage, however, there are two people who, though in the form of a baby, realize that the Lord is the Savior He has sent. Simeon met the baby Jesus and said, "My eyes have now seen your salvation," and "Lord, now you will let this servant go in peace, according to your word," and Anna was also 84 years old, but her spirit eyes were clearly open. Let us praise the Lord for His salvation with eyes of heart more and more keen even as we grow older.

Good morning, everyone.

Last week we celebrated the Lord's Nativity. And today is the closing service of the year.

Starting from Advent, we have seen various events that tested our faith from God. God showed Zacharias, who had been repeatedly saying that my wife and I are getting old, that anything is possible.

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Even though Jesus, the Messiah, the Redeemer and Savior, was about to be born, "there was no room for them in the drawing room. This reveals the darkness of the human heart.

But in today's passage we see two people who, though in the form of a baby, realize that the Lord is the Savior sent by Him. Let us continue reading about them.

2:21 And when the eight days were past, and it was time to circumcise him, they named the little child Jesus, just as the angel had told them before his conception.

2:22 Then when the period of their cleansing by the law of Moses had expired, the parents

went up to Jerusalem with the little child.

2:23 That they might present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every son who opens his mother's womb for the first time must be acclaimed as sanctified by the Lord,

2:24 And to offer sacrifices according to the law of the Lord, which also says, “A mammon or two chicks of a mammon.

Before that, the time had come to offer the sacrifice of the first-born male with circumcision and the sacrifice for the cleansing of the mother who bore the child.

The firstborn boy. It may quickly bring to mind the events of the Exodus.

When God delivered His people out of Egypt, He took the life of the firstborn male animal, whether human or domesticated. And in Exodus 13 we read

13:1 The Lord said to Moses

13:2 “You shall sanctify to me every Uijah, every firstborn among the people of Israel, whether man or beast, and it shall be mine. It is mine.”

13:3 And Moses said to the people, “Remember this day when you come out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. For the Lord will lead you out of it with a strong hand. You shall not eat bread with seed in it, for the LORD your God will bring you out of Egypt.

Numbers 18:15 All the carrion of the flesh, and all that is offered unto the LORD, both of man and of beast, shall be unto thee; but the carrion of man shall be unto thee. But the carcass of a man must be consecrated, and the carcass of an unclean beast must be consecrated. 18:16 And the carcass of the unclean beast shall also be hallowed; but the carcass of a man shall not be hallowed.

18:16 The first month of the life of a man's foal must be redeemed; and the first month of the life of a man's foal must be redeemed. 18:17 And the money of his vengeance shall be five shekels of silver, according to the shekels of the sanctuary, according to thy reckoning. One shekel is twenty gerah.

(The “five shekels of silver” is stipulated in Numbers, but the offering seems to have changed in the New Testament era, and the amount paid is said to be equivalent to 20 days' wages, but the Bible does not give the specifics of this. In any case, the father paid some kind of “redemption price” to the priest to buy back his son. (Quoted from the “Pastor's Study” website.)

Along with that, for the cleansing of the mother, we read in Leviticus 12

12:1 And the LORD also said to Moses

12:2 "Say to the people of Israel, 'If a woman conceives and gives birth to a son, she shall be unclean for seven days. 12:3 On the eighth day she shall be unclean, and on the seventh day she shall be unclean.

12:3 On the eighth day she shall circumcise the skin before the child.

12:4 And she must go through the purification of blood thirty-three days. She shall not touch any holy thing until the days of her purification are fulfilled. And she shall not enter the holy of holies.

12:5 If she gives birth to a girl, she shall be unclean for two weeks, as the uncleanness of the moon. She must still go through sixty-six days for the cleansing of the blood.

12:6 When the days of purification are fulfilled for a boy or a girl, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tabernacle of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a brood for a sin offering, or a brood of wild asses.

12:7 And the priest shall offer it before the LORD to make atonement for her. Thus shall the woman be cleansed of the stain of her bleeding. This is the law for a woman who has given birth to a boy or a girl.

12:8 If she cannot reach the lamb, she shall take two mountain pigeons or two chicks of the house pigeons, and one shall be a burnt offering and one a sin offering, and the priest shall make an offering for her. And the priest shall make atonement for the woman, and she shall be clean.

We know that Joseph and Mary's home, Jesus' home, was a poor family that could not afford this sacrifice of a lamb. And we do not find any mention of a sacrifice to redeem this firstborn boy. But perhaps that is in a sense justified. Even if this baby, Jesus, did not pay the redemption money to the temple here, he would offer his life on the cross as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, as the atonement for the world, more than 30 years later. This is what this passage reminds me of.

2:25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. This man was a righteous and faithful man, and he longed to be comforted by Israel. And the Holy Spirit indwelled him.

2:26 And he had received the indication of the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he saw the Savior whom the Lord had sent.

2:27 And this man felt the Spirit and went into the temple. 2:28 And Simeon went to the temple, and came to the temple of the Lord, and there he saw the child Jesus, and he said to his parents, "I have come to do what is prescribed in the law,

2:28 And Simeon took the little child in his arms, and praised God, saying,

He was a righteous and faithful man, longing to be comforted of Israel. And the Holy Spirit dwelt in him,” Simeon. What a blessing that there was such a righteous man on earth, one who continued to conform, conform, conform, and desire to identify according to God's standard, will, and character, one who continued to spend all his days in a right relationship with God.

There was no room for them in the guest room.”John 1:10 He was in the world. And the world was made through him, and the world knew him not.11 He came to his own, and his own people received him not.”

In the midst of this kind of world's pettiness, how much more pleasing to God was the presence of the men Simeon and Anna, worshipers who joyfully welcomed Jesus and praised God with all their hearts.

John 20:28 Thomas answered Jesus, saying, My Lord and my God.

20:29 And Jesus said unto him, Hast thou believed because thou hast seen me? Blessed is he that believeth not seeing.

20:30 And Jesus did many other signs before his disciples, which are not written in this book.

20:31 But I have written these things so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life through His name.

John 4:32 But Jesus said, “I have food that you do not know.”

4:33 Then the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought you anything to eat?

4:34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

6:26 Jesus answered and said to them, “I tell you the truth. 6:26 Jesus answered and said to him, “I tell you the truth, you are not coming to me because you have seen a sign, but because you have eaten bread and are full.

6:27 Work not for food that decays, but for food that does not decay, which leads to eternal life. This is what the Son of Man will give you. For God the Father has entrusted it to the Son of Man.

6:28 Then they said to Jesus, “What shall we do to do the works of God?

6:29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Believe on him whom God hath sent, and that is the work of God.

6:30 They said to Him, “What sign will You give us that we may see and believe in You? What sign will you do for us, that we may see and believe in you?

6:31 Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness. 6:31 Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

6:32 Then Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth. It was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven. It is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

6:33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

6:34 They said to Jesus, "Lord, give us that bread always."

6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.

Zacharias said that both he and his wife were old, but Simeon and Anna did not say that they were old. He had "received the indication of the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he saw the Savior whom the Lord had sent," and he continued to believe it. Even in his old age, he did not give up, did not doubt, and continued to wait in the temple until the day he met his Savior. Believe and wait. And then, fix your eyes on Him. These eyes will surely see the salvation of the Lord. This is also the attitude of our faith.

What we see may be difficulty, anxiety, despair, and worry. But even though we are such weak people, the time will come when our eyes will finally see the salvation of the Lord. We will surely see that immense salvation of the Lord with our own eyes while we are still alive. It will not be a series of defeats. It is not all despair. In such a situation, our eyes will surely see the salvation of the Lord. Isn't this the Lord's promise to us?

This church will also see the salvation of the Lord. And we have faith that Jesus, who was born here, will do it.

2:28 And Simeon took the little child in his arms, and praised God, saying

2:29 "Now, O LORD, according to your word, let this servant go in peace,

2:30 For my eyes have now seen your salvation.

2:31 For this is the salvation which thou hast prepared before all people, that they may be saved from their sins,

2:32 A light of revelation to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel.

This salvation is salvation for all people. It is a light of revelation that shines not only on His people Israel, but also on the Gentiles. No one is left out of this salvation. This light we have received and this light we hold up.

2:33 And the father and the mother wondered that He had spoken this to them concerning the little child.

2:34 And Simeon congratulated them, and said to Mary his mother, "See, this little child is set apart as a sign to cause many in Israel to fall or to rise, and as a sign to receive opposition.  
-- Deut.

2:35 And you yourself will be pierced through the breast with a pickaxe. -- 2:35 And you yourself will be pierced with the sword in the breast, that the thoughts that are in the hearts of many may be made manifest.

Nevertheless, even above salvation, there were some events that were not easy. Jesus was also a sign of persecution. Many people stumble over Him and cannot accept Him. Not all of them could see themselves as they were and accept with childlike humility that they had a problem, that they had a disease and needed a doctor. He was taken away, persecuted, pierced, crucified.... It must have been a piercing pain for Mary's mother to see this. But it was God's will.

2:36 And there was a woman prophetess named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She succeeded her husband in the days of her daughter, and she lived with him only seven years,

2:37 And after that she lived a widow's life, and was eighty-four years old. And she did not leave the palace, but served God night and day with fasting and prayer.

2:38 And this old woman also came near at that very hour, and gave thanks to God, and told about this little child to all who were waiting for the salvation of Jerusalem.

Here again is a man who hoped for comfort from God, and whose eyes were keen even in his old age, and who did not leave the Temple, convinced that His salvation from God would come.

#### Psalm of David

27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is my life's salvation. Whom shall I fear?

27:2 When the wicked ones, who are my enemies, come against me, and revile me, and attack me, they shall stumble and fall.

27:3 And if an army encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid. 27:4 And though war arise against me, yet I have recourse to myself; I will not fear, neither will my heart be afraid.

27:4 I have desired one thing of the LORD, and I will seek it. 27:4 I have desired one thing

of the LORD, that I might dwell in the house of the LORD as long as I live, to see the splendor of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

27:5 For in the day of trouble the LORD will hide me in his mansion, and he will hide me behind his tabernacle, and he will set me on high upon a rock.

27:6 Now my tabernacle shall be exalted above the enemies that compass me about. Therefore I will praise the LORD in his tabernacle, with a joyful voice, offering sacrifices, singing and praising him.

27:7 Hear, O LORD, when I call with my voice; have mercy on me, and answer me.

27:8 Thou hast said, "Seek My face. To You my heart says, "Lord, I seek Your face.

Herein is our joy. Here is our rest and our strength. We, too, want to gather in the Temple, gather in the place of worship, encounter the Lord, receive strength, receive encouragement, look intently at this person, and press forward in a way of life that conveys this person, wise in the eyes of the spirit even as we grow older.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for today's worship. On the day of the Lord's nativity, when the cruelty and cruelty of man was so evident that "there was no place for them to stay in the inn," we are comforted by the worship of the shepherds overflowing with joy and the presence of pious people like Simeon and Anna. Even as we age, the eyes of the spirit are keen, and I ask the Holy Spirit to guide us to look where we need to look, to gaze upon the Lord and worship Him, and to follow His example. Please guide all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our community. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.