

2025 C Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord Feb. 2

Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord is the last echo of the Christmas season as our church year moves forward. Luke puts everything together in this one scene: The parents fulfilling the Law; God making his presence in the Temple; the prophets had predicted the coming. The scene summarized the mystery of God's presence among us: The Law, the prophets, tradition and the Temple.

The first Christmas was marked by **"lookers."** Joseph looked for a lodging. Mary looked into the squeamish face of Jesus. A thousand angels looked at the King. The wise men looked at the star. But no one was looking with more intensity than a seasoned holy man, Simeon.

Simeon, a righteous, devout, likely an old man in Jerusalem "was waiting for the consolation of Israel. And the Holy Spirit revealed to him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah." Simeon lived with an eye toward the future. He lived with a **"perhaps today"** attitude. He knew he would see the Messiah on earth before he saw the Father in heaven.

On the Fortieth day, Mary and Joseph went to the Temple to offer a sacrifice at the baby's dedication according to the Law. It was at this consecration of the Baby Jesus that Simeon saw Jesus.

Perhaps he had other plans that day: just going to stay home or visit the grandkids. But then came a nudging, a prompting. He decided, *I think I'll go to the temple.* Amidst of all the worshippers, somehow, Simeon spotted Joseph and Mary. No one else had a reason to notice this couple, except Simeon.

"Perhaps today," he heard a whisper as he saw them. "May I," Simeon gestured to the child. The same Spirit that had nudged the older man prompted the younger one. Mary gave the child to Simeon.

And he “took the baby in his hands and thanked God and said: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you prepared before all people and a light to the gentiles.”

Now is a timeline term. It indicates the arrival of a moment. Now we can go. Now we can eat. Now we can start. Simeon saw the arrival of Jesus as a “**now**” **moment**. The first day of a new era. The “consolation of Israel” had begun. The gate of history of the Old Testament, covenant had swung on the hinge of Bethlehem’s gate. The Author of life had turned the page and was ready to write a new chapter.

We Christians read the **Old Testament** because it **carries God’s promise** that points to our redemption in Jesus. The New Testament shows us **the fulfillment** of the Old because the one God reveals himself throughout.

The Presentation of the Lord is not only a moment of fulfillment but also a **moment of hope**. Jesus is **the glory of Israel** and **the light to the gentiles**. He is the illumination for every culture and era. He is the Way to the Father, the road to living in the image of God we were created to be. Jesus embodies the hope of eternal life embedded in every human being.

Hundreds of worshippers came to the Temple that day. And the only one, Simeon alone noticed the Baby and embraced and saw in Him God who came to fulfill His promises, hopes and truth.

We all came to the church today. What do most of us do? Just give a nod to God. And then move on with their lives unchanged. When would you be like Simeon to be opened to the Spirit of God to have a nudge to say, “Lord! Now you let your servant go in peace; my own eyes have seen your salvation”? Simeon saw the arrival of Jesus as a “Now’ moment, the first day of the era. “**Perhaps today,**” you be led by the Spirit of God to embrace Christ and start living in the “**Now moment**” and have the joy of life of fulfillment.