



The Essentials: The Gospel of Luke

Session 1: Luke 2:25-38

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Read: Luke 2:25-38

Discussion:

1. How do you typically imagine people of Jesus's time welcoming the infant Christ into the world? Briefly try to name and describe some of those occurrences where people receive (or don't!) the infant Jesus.
2. Luke is deeply concerned with making an accurate recording of Jesus's life. Why do you think he includes these two encounters with the righteous Simeon and the prophetess, Anna? What do they tell us about how some of Israel may have received Christ?
3. What are the words that Luke uses to describe Simeon and Anna? What kind of people do you think they were? And what about them enables the right recognition of Jesus?
4. What does it suggest that Simeon sees Jesus and breaks out into singing (predominately using Old Testament passages)? Have you ever had an experience—spiritual or otherwise—that almost made you want to sing? Share if you're willing!
5. This is a culminating moment in the life of Simeon; he says, "Lord, you can let me depart in peace now that I've seen the savior!" Do you think beholding Jesus can give you that kind of satisfaction still? How might you receive him even now according to the witness of Simeon and Anna?

Check in and Closing Prayer

Luke 2:22-38

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) 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.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 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. ²⁷ And he came in 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, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.