

DAILY LIFE

ADVENT PRAYER GUIDE

DECEMBER 14-18
WEEK 3

SIMEON & ANNA'S SONG - NUNC DIMITIS

Day 1 - Morning

Reading

While fulfilling these sacred obligations at the temple, they encountered a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was a just and pious man, anticipating the liberation of Israel from her troubles. He was a man in touch with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Anointed One. The Spirit had led him to the temple that day, and there he saw the child Jesus in the arms of His parents, who were fulfilling their sacred obligations. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and blessed God.

From Luke 2 - The Voice Bible

Reflection

Simeon **knew** Jesus. He understood. Simeon held Jesus and blessed God.

† Pause & Reflect

Preparation

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.

From 1 Samuel 3

Lord, open my lips. My mouth shall declare your praise.

From Psalm 51

The Song of Simeon & Anna

Now let your servant depart, Lord
According to your word,
In peace;

Response

According to your word, in peace
We look for you, we wait, we remember,
Your promises are sure.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
Which you prepared
Before the face of all peoples;
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of your people Israel.

Response

Reveal yourself to us
Again today.
Let us know you: Your light is blazing in this dark world.

† Pause & Reflect

Closing

He who dwells
In the secret place of the Most High
Will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the Lord,
He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in whom I trust.
He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler,

And from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover you with his feathers.
Under his wings you will take refuge.
His faithfulness is your shield and rampart.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
And the Most High your dwelling place,
No evil shall happen to you,
Neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

“Because he has set his love on me, therefore I will deliver him.
I will set him on high, because he has known my name.
He will call on me, and I will answer him.
I will be with him in trouble.
I will deliver him, and honor him.
I will satisfy him with long life,
and show him my salvation.”

From Psalm 91

Amen,
Yes,
Come Lord Jesus.

From Revelation 22

SIMEON & ANNA'S SONG - NUNC DIMITIS

Day 2 - Morning

Reading

At that very moment, an elderly woman named Anna stepped forward. Anna was a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for seven years before her husband died and a widow to her current age of 84 years. She was deeply devoted to the Lord, constantly in the temple, fasting and praying. When she approached Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, she began speaking out thanks to God, and she continued spreading the word about Jesus to all those who shared her hope for the rescue of Jerusalem.

From Luke 2 - The Voice Bible

Reflection

When faithful waiting encounters the Living God, the result can be explosive. There, we find a dynamic, unsilenceable and frequently annoying person who can't stop talking about what they've experienced. In the story of Anna (and Simeon) a very blunt question is asked of us: What is our response encountering Jesus?

† Pause & Reflect

Preparation

When we are still a long way off, Father, you see us,
You feel compassion;
You run and embrace and kiss us.

*From Luke 15

The Song of Simeon & Anna

Now let your servant depart, Lord
According to your word,
In peace;

Response

We remember today that we are
Your sons and daughters,
Serving you. Teach us,
Apprentice us,
Guide us in your ways.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
Which you prepared
Before the face of all peoples;
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of your people Israel.

Response

Father, let us remember your mercy.
Again today, reveal your light and salvation,
Your son Jesus.

† Pause & Reflect

Closing

Hear, Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one:
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
And with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is the first commandment.

The second is like this,
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these.
From Mark 12

Amen,
Yes,
Come Lord Jesus.
From Revelation 22

SIMEON & ANNA'S SONG - NUNC DIMITIS

Day 3 - Morning

Reading

Why do you say, “My troubled path is hidden from the Eternal; God has lost all interest in My cause”? Don’t you know? Haven’t you heard? The Eternal, the Everlasting God, The Creator of the whole world, never gets tired or weary. His wisdom is beyond understanding. God strengthens the weary and gives vitality to those worn down by age and care. Young people will get tired; strapping young men will stumble and fall. But those who trust in the Eternal One will regain their strength. They will soar on wings as eagles. They will run— never winded, never weary. They will walk— never tired, never faint.

From Isaiah 40 - The Voice Bible

Reflection

Has the Christmas season got you yet? Extra stress? The question isn’t will it, it’s when will it. And, how will we respond. God knows where you are, what you are going through and even sees your troubled path. Moreover, he is interested.

Preparation

God, we are so tired, we stumble.
We remember you are the Creator of all,
And you do not become weary
We wait for you renew us with strength.

From Isaiah 40

† Pause & Reflect

The Song of Simeon & Anna

Now let your servant depart, Lord
According to your word,
In peace;

Response

In our busy lives,
God, we need your peace.
In our angry hearts,
God, we need your peace.
In our fear and doubt,
God, we need your peace.
We wait for you.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
Which you prepared
Before the face of all peoples;
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of your people Israel.

Response

Move us to live,
No matter what our situation,
With thankful hearts.
Make us thankful people.

† Pause & Reflect

Closing

The Lord is my shepherd:

I shall lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Your rod and your staff,

They comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

In the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil.

My cup runs over.

Surely goodness and loving kindness

shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the Lord's house forever.

From Psalm 23

Amen,

Yes,

Come Lord Jesus.

From Revelation 22

SIMEON & ANNA'S SONG - NUNC DIMITIS

Day 4 - Morning

Reading

Listen, this child will make many in Israel rise and fall. He will be a significant person whom many will oppose. In the end, He will lay bare the secret thoughts of many hearts. And a sword will pierce even your own soul, Mary. *From Luke 2 - The Voice Bible*

Reflection

The work of God in and around can be disruptive and difficult. God is on mission. God invited Mary to be on mission with him, and that wasn't going to be easy. God's love for us does not translate to our comfort.

† Pause & Reflect

Preparation

Father, with our whole hearts we pray:

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

From Matthew 6

The Song of Simeon & Anna

Now let your servant depart, Lord

According to your word,

In peace;

Response

Let us live according your word.
Not our own, but your will be done.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
Which you prepared before the face of all peoples;
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of your people Israel.

Response

Let your light shine,
Let your greatness be revealed,
Your kingdom come, your will be done.

† Pause & Reflect

Closing

Our Father in heaven,
May your name be kept holy.
Let your Kingdom come.
Let your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors.
Bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.

From Matthew 6

Amen,

Yes,

Come Lord Jesus.

From Revelation 22

SIMEON & ANNA'S SONG - NUNC DIMITIS

Day 5 - Morning

Reading

We all have wandered off, like shepherdless sheep, scattered by our aimless striving and endless pursuits; The Eternal One laid on him, this silent sufferer, the sins of us all.

From Isaiah 53 - The Voice Bible

Reflection

Take a moment and think about how you're living aimlessly, what endless pursuits you are striving after. Consider, do the things you're holding onto, have a hold on you?

† Pause & Reflect

Preparation

You know us and we know you:

We are your sheep, we hear your voice

You know us and we follow you.

You are life.

From John 12

The Song of Simeon & Anna

Now let your servant depart, Lord
According to your word,
In peace;

Response

Father, let it be to us
According to your will, your word.
We trust that you will meet all our needs.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
Which you prepared
Before the face of all peoples;
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of your people Israel.

Response

Give us eyes to see what you're doing today.
Give us ears to hear your voice speak.
And point us to serve, like you serve us.

† Pause & Reflect

Closing

The Lord is my shepherd:
I shall lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
He restores my soul.
He guides me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil.
My cup runs over.
Surely goodness and loving kindness
shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the Lord's house forever.

From Psalm 23

Amen,
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