

First Sunday After Christmas – 2021

Sunday, 12/26 at 9:00



Text: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-13; Luke 2:22-40 NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Even though we just celebrated Jesus' birth, ***we know He was born to die*** – to save us from our sins! Today, nearly 8 billion people are living in the world; some are like Simeon – VERY BLESSED *because they are ready to die*. Let's learn what that means as we focus on the exodus and baby Jesus being brought to the temple.

1. **Don't Forget:** [Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-13](#)

- a. Remember: ¹ [...the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,](#)
² [“Sanctify \[set apart\] to Me every firstborn... among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me \[because I rescued it from the tenth plague\].”](#) ³ [Moses said to the people,](#) “Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt...; for by a powerful hand the LORD brought you out from this place....” // God permitted that time of slavery; then, *especially through*

the tenth plague, which included the blood of unblemished male lambs (➔ Jesus), He set them free!

- b. **Redeem:** ¹¹ “Now when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite... and gives it to you, ¹² you shall devote [*sacrifice*] to the LORD the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the LORD. ¹³ **“But... every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.”** // Most firstborn male animals were sacrificed (Deut. 15:21), *but the sons were redeemed – to remember God’s past rescue and look ahead to His future rescue!*

HYMN: *Joy to the World*

LSB 387, 1-2

2. **An Exciting Day at the Temple:** **Luke 2:22-40**

- a. **Purification and Redemption:** ²² ...when the days for their purification [*that is, Joseph and Mary*] according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him [*Jesus*] up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “**EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD**” [*and needs to be redeemed*]), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice [*for the purification*] according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “**A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.**”
- i. **Purification:** A woman who had a male child had to wait 40 days; then she and her husband would bring a sacrifice to the temple – *normally a one-year-old lamb **and** a turtledove **or** a young pigeon. The poor man’s sacrifice was two turtledoves **or** two young pigeons (Lev. 12:6-8). Since Joseph and Mary did not bring a lamb, *that indicates that they had not yet received the gift of gold from the wisemen.**

- ii. Redemption: The price to redeem Jesus, *the firstborn son*, was “five shekels [or two ounces] in silver” (Num. 18:16). Today’s value: About \$40.
- b. Simeon: ²⁵ And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation [comfort] 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. // Simeon, an OT believer – *who trusted in the coming Messiah* – would see the Messiah before he died!
- c. Now dismiss: ²⁷ And he [Simeon] came in the Spirit [being led by the Spirit] into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law [to pay the redemption price], ²⁸ then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, ²⁹ **“Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation, ³¹ Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel.”** // Those are the words of the *Nunc Dimittis*, which are Latin for *Now Dismiss*. **Peace is being in relationship with God through Jesus!** Simeon ♦believed in, ♦saw, and ♦held his Savior; **he was ready to depart, thus, to die in peace!** When we know Jesus through our God-given faith, *we are also ready to die!*
- d. Fall and rise: ³³ And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed

[spoken against] -- ³⁵ and a sword will pierce even your own soul-- to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." // For each person, everything for eternity depends on Jesus; those who **reject** Him fall to hell, while those who **embrace** Him rise to heaven!

- e. Anna: ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with *her* husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. ³⁸ At that very moment she came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him [Jesus] to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. // *Another assurance that Jesus is the One!*
- f. Jesus: ³⁹ When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. // From Matthew, we know that the lives of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus followed this series of events: From Jerusalem, *they returned to Bethlehem and were visited by the wisemen*; then, having been warned in a dream about Herod's soldiers, *they fled to Egypt*; then, after Herod died, *they returned to Nazareth!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, keep us sorry for our sins and trusting in Jesus for eternal life; then, knowing we are ready to depart in peace, *help us to live unto Your glory!*

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