**Esperanza Lutheran Church Sunday Funday Epiphany #3**

**January 17, 2021**

**All Ages**

**Bible Story: Simeon and Anna at the Temple waiting for the Messiah.**

**Emphasis: Simeon and Anna waited on God at the Temple. God was to fulfill God’s promise to Simeon. The promised God made to Simeon was that he would see the Messiah before he died. Anna stayed in the Temple to wait for the Messiah too.Jesus and his family came to the Temple and Anna and Simeon met the Messiah! They were filled with joy with God’s gift of a Savior.**

**Bible Background:** (Greek Συμεών, Simeon the God-receiver) at the [Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Temple) is the "just and devout" man of [Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem) who, according to [Luke 2:25–35](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Bible_(King_James)/Luke#2:25), met [Mary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary,_mother_of_Jesus), [Joseph](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Joseph), and [Jesus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus) as they entered the [Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_of_Jerusalem) to fulfill the [requirements of the Law of Moses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pidyon_HaBen) on the 40th day from Jesus' birth at the [presentation of Jesus at the Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presentation_of_Jesus_at_the_Temple).

According to the Biblical account, Simeon had been visited by the [Holy Spirit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Spirit) and told that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ. On taking Jesus into his arms he uttered a prayer of thanksgiving.  Anna  lived in the Temple worshipping God and waiting for God to fulfill the promise of a Messiah.  Both Anna and Simeon had immense perseverance and deep faith.  In some Christian traditions, this meeting is commemorated on February 2 as [Candlemas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candlemas), or more formally, the *Presentation of the Lord*, or the *Meeting of the Lord*.  Simeon is venerated as a [saint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint) in the [Roman Catholic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic), [Eastern Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox) and [Oriental Orthodox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oriental_Orthodox) traditions. His [feast day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_day) is February 3 in the Roman Catholic Church.[

**Read the Bible Story!:**  (Spark Bible: Simeon and Anna Pages 226-229, Luke 2: 25-35)  This is the story of patience and great faith. This is a story of God’s faithfulness!

**Questions:**

1. **Why did Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus come to the Temple?** (They went to the Temple to present Jesus to the Lord and offer a sacrifice of 2 turtle doves to God, thanking God for their first born child.)

1. **Where did the prophet Anna live as she waited for the Savior?** (She lived in the Temple worshipping and praying to God)

1. **What did Anna do when she saw Jesus the Messiah?** (She gave thanks to God and she told everyone that the Messiah had come!)

1. **What did Simeon do and say when he saw Jesus the Messiah?** (He held Jesus and Blessed God.  He said that he can die in peace because he has seen the Savior with his own eyes! Jesus is a light for all people.)

**Activity:** Do the “Activity Page” that was enclosed in the Sunday Funday envelope.  As you color talk with your child about Anna and her perseverance and belief that God would give the world a Savior.  God is faithful and continues to fulfill promises.

**Emphasize: Jesus is and was the Savior of the world and this was God’s promise to all God’s people.**

**Hold hands and end in a Family Prayer:** Dear Jesus, Thank you for loving all people.  Help all of us care for your creation and be patience and kind to one another.