**Esperanza Lutheran Church Sunday Funday Epiphany #4**

**January 24, 2021**

**All Ages**

**Bible Story: Simeon, Anna and Jesus the Christ Child.**

**Emphasis: Simeon and Anna waited on God at the Temple. God was to fulfill God’s promise to Simeon.  God’s promise was that Simeon would see the Messiah before he died. Jesus and his family came to the temple and Anna and Simeon met the Messiah!**

**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_%28King_James%29/Luke#2:25), met [Mary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary%2C_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.

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: Anna and Simeon Pages 226-229, Luke 2: 25-35)  This is a story of patience and great faith. This is also a story of God’s faithfulness.

**Questions:**

1. **What was the promise that God made with Simeon?**  (Simeon would not die until he had seen the Messiah (Baby Jesus)

1. **Where was Mary,Joseph and Jesus when Simeon saw them?** (in the Temple)

1. **What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus?** (He held Jesus in his arms and praised God!)

     5. **Did Anna hold Jesus too?** (She held Jesus, praised God and went and told others about how special Jesus was!)

1. **What do you think Mary and Joseph thought about Simeon telling them that Jesus was going to save the world?** (They were surprised and amazed of all he said about Jesus)

**Activity: Make Cookies!** Pick any kind of cookies.  When you make cookies it takes a certain amount of patience.  First you have to put the ingredients together, wait for the oven to heat up and then wait for the cookies to cook.  Through this process of making cookies together talk about how much patience it took for Anna and Simeon to wait for Jesus the Messiah to come.  They waited and they prayed (A LOT!)  God was faithful and they did meet Jesus the Savior of the world!

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

**Hold hands and end in a Family Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to us as a baby. Help us to see all people are your children. Amen