

STUDY GUIDE WEEK FOUR

Songs of Luke: "Your Word Has Been Fulfilled" - Simeon's Song

Winter 2025 - Pastor Grangaard

Overview:

We have joined the angels, Mary, and Zechariah in singing the Gloria, the Magnificat, and Zechariah's Prophecy of God's Tender Compassion. Luke's songs draw to a close as the Gospel of Jesus Christ opens—but not without the final note: *Nunc Dimittis*.

Nunc Dimittis, Latin for "dismiss your servant" is sung by Simeon, a faithful Jewish man in Jerusalem who was waiting for the consolation of Israel. Guided by the Holy Spirit, he meets Joseph and Mary as they presented Jesus at the Temple, in accordance with Jewish customs. On seeing Jesus, he sung a song of praise asking God to let his servant go in peace, for God's word had been fulfilled. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises.

Key Scripture: Luke 2:25-33 [22-40]

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Questions

1. What would it be like to hold the baby Jesus in your arms?
2. What would your song be?
3. What consolation are you seeking in your life?



Letting Go and Finding Hope in God, The Nunc Dimittis

Daily prayer not only reflects the time of our days, but also the timespan of our lives. Morning Prayer (Matins) and the promise of new life given by God, Evening Prayer (Vespers) the middle of life sustained by God, and Night Prayer (Compline) the end of life commended to God. Night Prayer offers a time to acknowledge both the gifts and the failings of each day, and we commend ourselves and the whole world into God's hands as night comes.

Nunc Dimittis, Latin for "allowed to be dismissed" are the first words of Simeon's song of praise. Simeon has seen his salvation and can rest in peace knowing God's future is secure.

In an echo of Simeon's Song, Night Prayer helps us to let go and trust God.

Compline

Opening

Dialogue

Almighty God grant us a quiet night and peace at the last

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord

To sing praise to your name, O Most High

To herald your love in the morning,

Your truth at the close of the day.

Night Hymn: ELW 565 All Praise to Thee My God This Night

Confession and Forgiveness (ELW p. 321, right column)

Word

Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Bible Study with Hymns

Canticle: ELW 313

Night Prayer

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

Lord's Prayer

Peace