

# Begin the Year with GOD

Prepared and freely distributed by  
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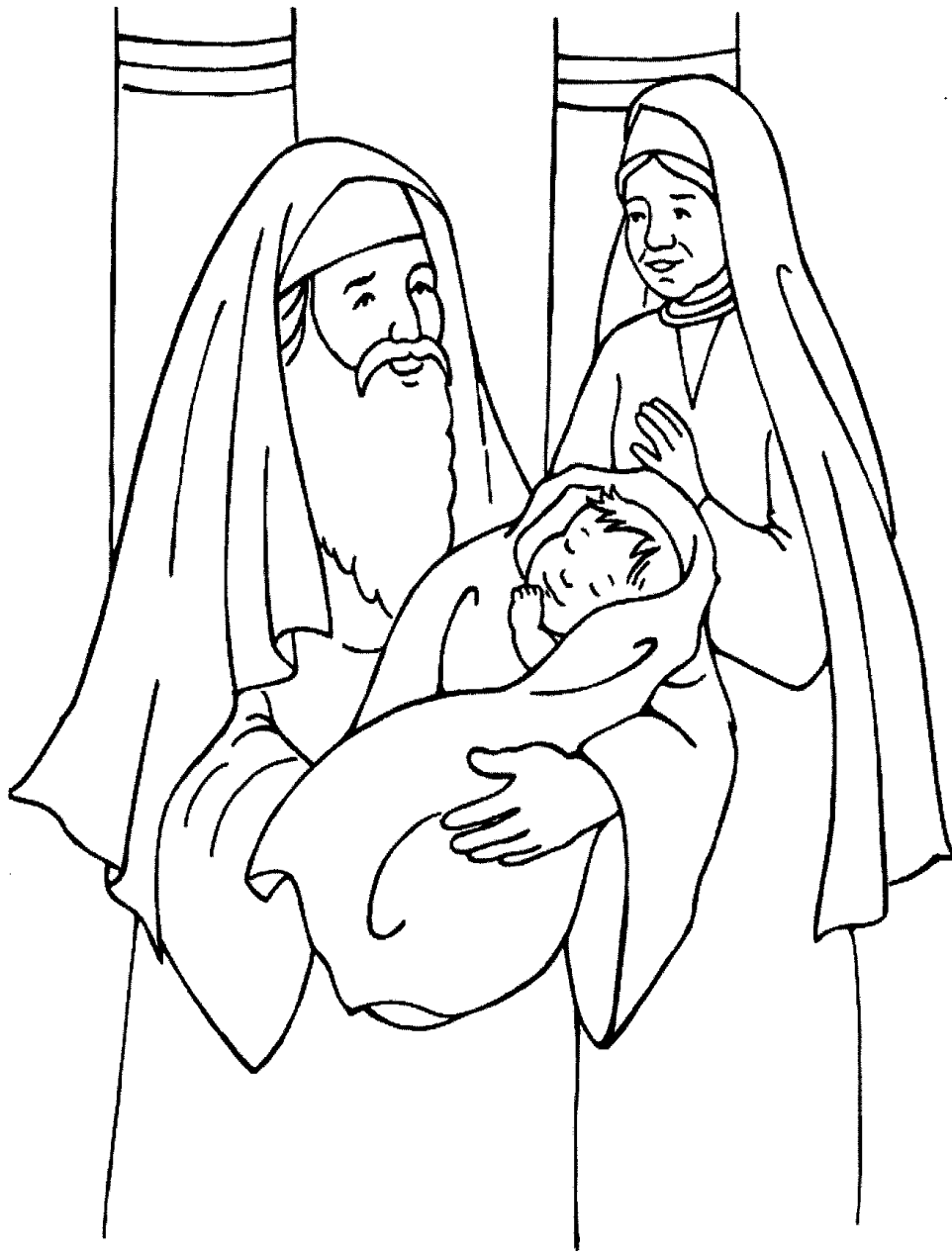


## The First Sunday after Christmas 31 December, 2023

### Luke 2:25-26

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

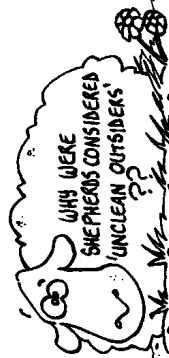
Dear Father, as you are faithful in keeping your promises to us, may we be faithful in keeping our promises to you. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**



Simeon and Anna Thank God  
Luke 2

**- THE LAWS -**

Anyone who eats anything found dead or torn by wild animals must wash his clothes and bathe and be ceremonially unclean till evening. Or else. Anyone who picks up the carcass must wash his clothes and be unclean till evening. Observe the Lord's Sabbath and do no work on it.



**SHEPHERD'S DIARY**

**Monday** Found a lamb killed by a wolf. We cooked and ate it for tea. Washing will have to wait till we get to some water tomorrow, I'm afraid.

**Tuesday** Another lamb killed - by a rat. I killed the rat and dragged the carcass away from our sheep.

**Sabbath** Worked as usual, as the sheep were giving birth to their lambs, and they all needed feeding and protecting.

**GOOD TIMING**  
WHY WAS JESUS BORN WHEN HE WAS?

As far as God was concerned, this was the absolute best time for it to happen. Looking back we can see why.

**HOW DO YOU MEAN?**

Well, the people had learnt a lot about God through Egypt and their wandering in the desert, and in exile. They were as ready as they'd ever be.

**THE ROMAN EMPIRE WOULD HELP THE GOOD NEWS SPREAD, TOO, WOULDN'T IT?**

True. And Mary and Joseph were ready and willing to help.



TRY TURNING THIS PRAYER INTO A PIECE OF MUSIC OR ARTWORK!



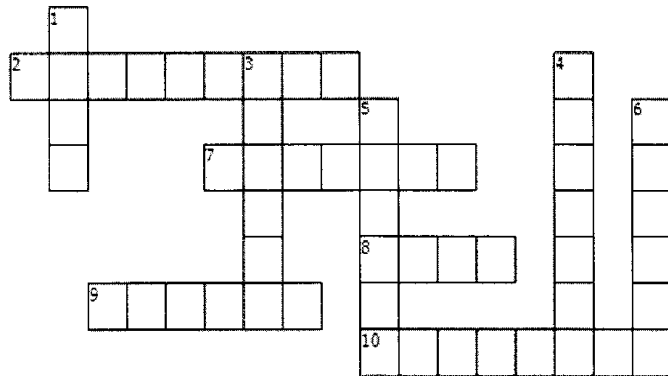
PRAISE THE LORD FROM THE HEAVENS; PRAISE HIM ALL HIS ANGELS.  
PRAISE HIM, SUN AND MOON; PRAISE HIM ALL YOU SHINING STARS.  
PRAISE THE LORD FROM THE EARTH, YOU SEA MONSTERS AND OCEAN DEPTHS;  
FIRE AND HAIL, SNOW AND ICE, GALES OF WIND THAT OBEY HIS VOICE.  
LET KINGS AND COMMONERS, YOUTHS AND GIRLS, OLD AND YOUNG TOGETHER,  
LET THEM PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD,  
FOR HIS NAME IS HIGH ABOVE ALL OTHERS,  
AND HIS MAJESTY ABOVE EARTH AND HEAVEN.  
(- FROM PSALM 148 -)

Ideas and Notes  
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# Simeon Recognizes Jesus

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luke 2:25-26 (NVI)

Based on Luke 2:22-40 (NIV)



## ACROSS

2. Deliverance from the penalty of sin
7. Something you said that you would do
8. The organs for seeing in the faces of humans and animals
9. A building dedicated to religious ceremonies or worship
10. The town where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived

## DOWN

1. The mother of Jesus
3. The homeland of the Jewish people
4. A person who is not Jewish
5. The man who was promised he would not die until he had seen the Messiah
6. The earthly father of Jesus

TEMPLE	SALVATION	MARY	NAZARETH	ISRAEL
SIMEON	JOSEPH	GENTILE	PROMISE	EYES





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J O H I S R A E L D D L E F J  
 J M I A A P E H L O E O O M K  
 B R P W L H Z V V I I V V C K  
 K I K R V J P B E C G Z O E C  
 L G Y T A L S I Z A O H H U S  
 U H U E T I H I G R L U T F T  
 A T S M I I S M M E K E R Z Y  
 J E A P O E Q E O E O W D T V  
 E O C L N P C G D B O N H F S  
 S U R E O J Z R V J T N S M Q  
 U S I S P I R I T Z O M Q A N  
 S J F E P A R E N T S S H F T  
 P L I P P R O M I S E D E J P  
 B B C C K Z M A R Y P Y R P U  
 R O E M V M C H I L D P N O H

SPIRIT	RIGHTEOUS	PRAISED	COURTS	TEMPLE
CHILD	DEVOUT	LIGHT	JOSEPH	JESUS
PARENTS	SALVATION	ISRAEL	REVEALED	PIGEONS
SIMEON	PROMISED	DOVES	SACRIFICE	MARY