

Tuesday 28th December 2021

Luke 2: 28-30 *"Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:*

*'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,'"*

Image the scene. The courtyard of the temple bustling with priests, temple officials, the devout and all manner of merchants and hangers on. There would have been noise and dust from the pigeons, doves and sheep brought by young parents bringing their first born sons to fulfil the Law of the Lord. Mary and Joseph must have been anxious as they clutched their sacrificial offerings.

Image their consternation as they were approached by an old man with gleaming eyes of joy who taking the 8 day old Jesus in his arms praised God. And their puzzlement at the words from Anna, a prophetess who spoke about the child and the promise of redemption for all. And strangest of all Simeon warning Mary that *"...a sword will pierce your own soul too."* (Luke 2: 35) What amazing faith Mary must have had even though she can hardly have envisaged what her son would go through on the Cross.

Lord help us to have the belief of Mary as we marvel at her fortitude in the temple in Jerusalem.