



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Daily Devotion at Zion + February 2022 AD + **Epiphany Season***

The Nunc Dimittis: “Lord, Now You Let”

Zion sings an ancient song after Holy Communion this Epiphany season (paraphrased slightly differently at Saturday night):

Lord now you let your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. (“Now let us...” is *Nunc Dimittis* in Latin.)

Those words come from Luke 2:28-32. The prophet Simeon declares them upon seeing the infant Christ as His presentation, an event commemorated every year on February 2. How may these words enrich your devotion?

We sing it as we leave the Supper, having received there its fulfillment: the light of the world, Jesus Christ. It is therefore appropriate to use at all our “leaving times”: as we leave the day for sleep (it appears in the service of Compline), or even as we leave this world for the next. At the end of the day, these words help us welcome the light of Christ and commend ourselves into God’s hands, and it does the same as we or others we know die, commending believers into the hands of their Father. Saying farewell can be dark, but Christ brightens it with His eternal light.

Though ancient, these words are ever new, full of power and inspiration for the Christian devotional life.

About the Cover Art

This painting by artist Ron DiCianni captures the events described in Luke 2: aged Simeon grasps the infant Jesus and proclaims Him God’s light to the whole world. That world, painted in the background, bleeds through to the foreground, drawing us beyond Simeon to the cosmic salvation that he prophesies, and a small light, reminiscent of the Bethlehem star, shines from within the folds of Jesus’ blanket. Painted in contrasting blues and yellows, the whole painting recalls our Baptismal union with Christ, in which the light of God shines on us through those sacred waters to include us in the Spirit’s fulfillment of Simeon’s words.

Daily Readings for the Week of Epiphany 4 (January 30)

S Genesis 18:16-33 Galatians 5:13-25 Mark 8:22-30	Th Genesis 23:1-20 Hebrews 11:32—12:2 John 6:60-71
M Genesis 19:1-29 Hebrews 11:1-12 John 6:27-40	F Genesis 24:1-27 Hebrews 12:3-11 John 7:1-13
T Genesis 21:1-21 Hebrews 11:13-22 John 6:41-51	Sa Genesis 24:28-38, 49-51 Hebrews 12:12-29 John 7:14-36
W Genesis 22:1-18 Hebrews 11:23-31 John 6:52-59	<i>These readings correspond to pages 333– 368 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>

Daily Readings for the Week of Epiphany 5 (February 6)

S Genesis 24:50-67 2 Timothy 2:14-21 Mark 10:13-22	Th Genesis 27:30-45 Romans 12:9-21 John 8:21-32
M Genesis 25:19-34 Hebrews 13:1-16 John 7:37-52	F Genesis 27:46—28:4, 10-22 Hebrews 13:1-14 John 8:33-47
T Genesis 26:1-6, 12-33 Hebrews 13:17-25 John 7:53—8:11	Sa Genesis 29:1-20 Romans 14:1-23 John 8:47-59
W Genesis 27:1-29 Romans 12:1-8 John 8:12-20	<i>These readings correspond to pages 368-403 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>

Daily Readings for the Week of Epiphany 6 (February 13)

S Genesis 29:20-35 1 Timothy 3:14—4:10 Mark 10:23-31	Th Genesis 32:3-21 1 John 2:18-29 John 10:19-30
M Genesis 30:1-24 1 John 1:1-10 John 9:1-17	F Genesis 32:22—33:17 1 John 3:1-10 John 10:31-42
T Genesis 31:1-24 1 John 2:1-11 John 9:18-41	Sa Genesis 35:1-20 1 John 3:11-18 John 11:1-16
W Genesis 31:25-50 1 John 2:12-17 John 10:1-18	<i>These readings correspond to pages 403-436 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>

Daily Readings for the Week of Epiphany 7 (February 20)

Note: Those using For All the Saints have readings from an inter-testamental book, Tobit, rather than Proverbs.

S Proverbs 1:20-33 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 Mark 10:35-45	Th Proverbs 7:1-27 1 John 5:13-21 John 11:55—12:8
M Proverbs 3:11-20 1 John 3:18—4:6 John 11:17-29	F Proverbs 8:1-21 Philemon 1-25 John 12:9-19
T Proverbs 4:1-27 1 John 4:7-21 John 11:30-44	Sa Proverbs 8:22-36 2 Timothy 1:1-14 John 12:20-26
W Proverbs 6:1-19 1 John 5:1-12 John 11:45-54	<i>These readings correspond to pages 436-472 in Volume III of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>