

Simeon and Anna

Jesus was a little, Jewish, baby, and one day the time came for him to be presented in the Temple, as Jewish law required. So Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple, in order to dedicate him to God, because he was their first-born son.

At that time, there was a man called Simeon, who was living in Jerusalem. He was a good man who respected God, and was waiting for the special person, who would come and save God's people. The Holy Spirit had assured Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. And the Spirit told Simeon to go to the temple that day.

When Joseph and Mary came into the Temple, Simeon knew that this child was the person he had been waiting for all his life. He took the baby in his arms and blessed him, giving thanks to God.

Lord God, you have kept your promise and now I am ready to die happy

Because with my own eyes, I have seen your special plan

Which you have made clear to all.

Here is the light to show your will to everyone,

And to bring glory to your own, your chosen people.

Joseph and Mary were amazed at the things that Simeon said. Simeon blessed them and told them that Jesus was to do God's will. He also told them that Jesus' work for God would bring them sorrow as well as joy.

There was also a very old woman, who lived in the Temple. Her name was Anna, and she spent her time in prayer and in worshipping God. She too, recognised Jesus as the one who was to set the Jewish people free. She spoke about the child to all who were around, praising God for him.

Find this story in the Bible, Luke Chapter 2, verses 22-38