

For Private Circulation Only

FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HALF HOUR - February 2019

Christ our hope

Hymn: A lamp for our steps has been given...

Introduction:

We all need hope. Every parent worry about the kind of world our children and grandchildren will grow up in. Given these uncertainties, when we meet an elderly person who is filled with hope, we need to sit up and take notice. Here is someone who could be pessimistic, cynical, filled with fears and anxieties. But he is brimming over with firm hope.

Hymn: The light of Christ...

Simeon was such a man. When he held the infant Jesus in his arms in the temple courtyard, we see more than just an old man taking hope in any newborn. Rather, we see an old man who has put his hope in the promises of God. This was no ordinary newborn! He was the fulfillment of God's promises to His people. As we observe this elderly saint with this child in his arms, we learn some valuable lessons about the hope we all so desperately need.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2 : 25-35 to be proclaimed from the Bible (SILENCE)

Reflection:

To hope in Christ means to live righteously

In the gospel text Simeon is described as a "*righteous and devout*" person. The word "*Righteous*" could be explained that his behavior in the sight of God and towards his neighbours etc... was in accordance with God's principles and values.

Reflect-If we hope in Christ, do we take care to live righteously. Do we view God as the Sovereign Lord, our Master. Do we search His Word to determine how He wants us to live, and do we walk with Him every day.

To hope in Christ means to live expectantly

In the gospel text the phrase was "*looking for the consolation of Israel*" refers to the time when Isaiah prophesied that God would comfort His people and remove their sins by sending His Anointed One, 'the Messiah'. Simeon had certainly been waiting and looking for a long time. He was coming to the end of his life.

Reflect-Do you live expectantly? Do you expect God to answer your prayers, or are you surprised when one gets answered? People of hope live expectantly, waiting on God to fulfill His promises.

To hope in Christ means to live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament gives us an example of a saint; living before the day of Pentecost i.e. the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and yet he probably lived his life, more in the fullness of the Spirit than most of us today.

Reflect- To walk by the Spirit means to depend on Him consciously for everything you do. Do you depend on Him to resist temptation? Do you ask Him for insight into His Word? Do you seek Him for wisdom in difficult decisions?

For us today, to hope in Christ means to live righteously and expectantly in the power of the Holy Spirit. No matter how difficult our circumstance, we can still have hope, because Christ is our salvation. He has won the victory over sickness, sin and death. Those who hope in Christ and to keep him the centre of our lives, we will not be disappointed.

Hymn :In the Lord is my Hope..

Responsorial Psalm: Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;
reach up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may come in!

Response: Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Who is this king of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle.

Response: Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Benediction: Let us bow

Concluding Prayer:

Lord, in Simeon I see hope triumphant, hope richly rewarded. The years of waiting - the centuries before he himself was born and the long years that he had lived - did not blunt the edge of his faith. His hope and yearning left him alive to the prompting of God, ready to hear it when it came. Grant that I may learn from him.

Hymn: Colours of day dawn

Ideas taken from: <https://bible.org/book/export/html/22223>

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