

The Nunc Dimittis

We now come to the **NUNC DIMITTIS**, which is Latin for “Now Dismiss.” The words to this come to us from **Luke 2**. When Jesus was 8 days old and presented at the temple, an old man named Simeon took Him in his arms and said:

Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel (Luke 2:29—32).

The Bible tells us that Simeon was *righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ (Luke 2:25—26).*

The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that this baby he held in his arms was the Christ. Now, he could depart, or die, in peace. Simeon had been led by the Spirit to come to the temple to see the Christ. We have come to the table to receive Christ’s body and blood. Now that we have received Him for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith, we sing with Simeon:

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before
the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father
and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

We add the **GLORIA PATRI** to give praise to the Triune God. Now, since we have received the body and blood of Christ, when we depart, He departs with us to help us live for Him throughout the week.

Prayer:

Lord, be with us through the week to help us live for You. Amen.