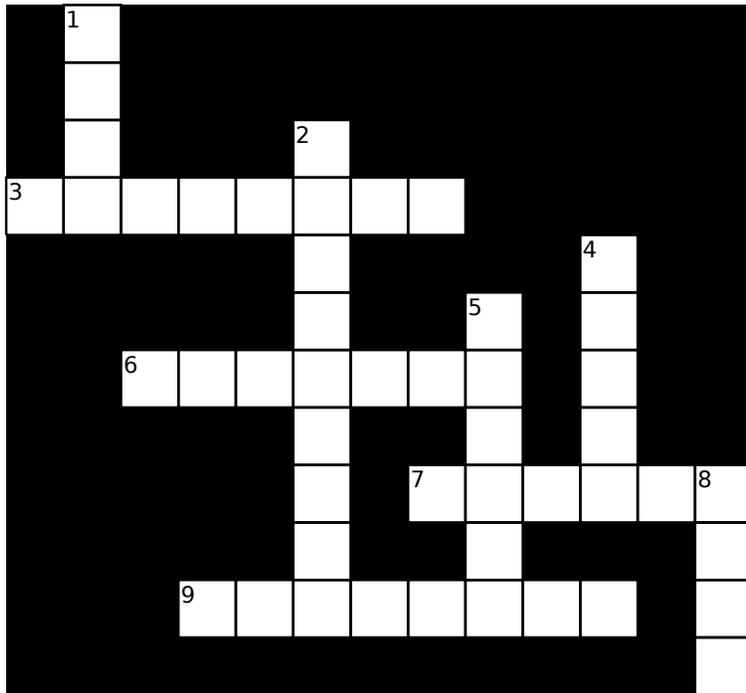


LESSONS FOR LAMBS

FIRST WEEK OF CHRISTMAS
The color for Christmas is white.



ACROSS

- 3 Mary & Joseph took Jesus back to the town of _____, where He grew & became strong.
6 Jesus is the promised _____ who comes to save people from their sins.
7 _____ was described as a righteous & devout man.
9 We sing the Nunc _____ in our worship service after communion.

DOWN

- 1 _____, was the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
2 Mary & Joseph brought Jesus to _____ to present Him in the temple.
4 Simeon said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in _____, according to your word."
5 Simeon knew that Jesus was the _____.
8 The words Simeon spoke in Luke we now call the ____ Dimittis.



What to listen for during the service?

Listen in the service for the Nunc Dimittis. When do we sing it? What are we confessing (or saying) when we sing it at that time of the service?

Produced by Heidi D. Sias. May be reproduced intact for congregational use only, not to be sold. For further permissions contact hm2345@gmail.com.

Front cover Art (by Ed Riojas) copyright © 2006 by Higher Things. Used by permission. Available from Higher Things through their web store at: <http://www.higherthings.org/store.html>.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Catechism excerpts from the 1912 Catechism, other art and all hymns are in the public domain.

Remainder copyright © 2009 Heidi Dawn Sias.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

(The Gospel Reading is from the part of the Bible that is about Jesus and his ministry.)

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 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. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Questions to talk about with your parents:

- 1) Who did Simeon confess that Jesus was in the temple when he spoke the words in verses 29-32?
- 2) Why did Simeon say he had seen God's salvation?

- 3) Why did Anna "give thanks to God"?
- 4) Where did Jesus grow up?
- 5) What is the Nunc Dimittis (see below)?

People of the Bible: Simeon

In the Gospel reading today we hear about Simeon. But who was Simeon? Simeon is described in the book of Luke as a righteous and devout man from Jerusalem, which means he had faith and believed in God. Luke also tells us that the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he would see the Christ before he died. So when Mary and Joseph presented Jesus to him in the temple, he recited what is known as the Nunc Dimittis, which we read in verses 29 to 32. Simeon knew Jesus was the Messiah and was the promise sent by God to be the Savior for all people who believe. He faithfully confessed this faith in these words of the Nunc Dimittis.

Catechism Corner

The Fifth Commandment

Thou shalt not kill.

What does this mean? Answer:

We should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

Draw a picture of how the front of your church looks during this season of Christmas

