

34th Sunday After Pentecost & Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

WEEK 10: Sunday's Epistle and Gospel
Readings, Feast Day Story, Skit, and
Six Ways to Celebrate the Feast



OPENING PRAYERS:

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen
Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee!

Prayer to Holy Spirit

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Trisagion Prayer

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Before Study

Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart that I may hear thy word and understand it and so fulfill thy will. Amen.

DAILY LESSON / ACTIVITY: See pages below. For each topic, please note **Parent roles, **notes**, and **(child responses)**.**

Prayers

Before and after each lesson, please say a short prayer in front of an icon according to your family's prayer rule or the following, taken from the red St Tikhon's Prayer Book:

CLOSING PRAYERS:

"Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb: for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

Pray to God for me, O holy [name of your patron saint], pleasing to God, for with fervor I run to thee, swift helper and intercessor for my soul.

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine inheritance. Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries, and by virtue of thy Cross preserve thy habitation.

It is truly meet to bless thee, O Theotokos: ever-blessed and most pure and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim; without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of thy most pure Mother, of my holy guardian angel, of [name of your patron saint], of [saint(s) of the day], and of all the saints: save me, a sinner. Amen."

Day 1: Talk About Sunday's Epistle & Gospel Readings

Prayer Before Reading Holy Scripture: O Lord my God, enlighten my mind with the light of the understanding of Thy holy Scripture, and teach me to do Thy will.

Parent Explains: Today's epistle was written by St. Paul to the Colossians--the Christians who lived in Colossae. It is one of the books (or letters) found in the New Testament of our bible.

Parent or child may read aloud from Colossians 3:12-16. [Click here for OCA website link.](#)

Parent Asks: "What the author of this Sunday's epistle/apostol talking about?" *Possible Answers:* (St. Paul writes a letter to the people in the city of Colossae, encouraging them to be good members of society. He encourages them to have faith, being good: helping and loving each other as Christ loves everyone. St. Paul explains that having peace in one's heart means keeping the Word of God close in their lives.)

Parent Asks: "How is the message of this epistle apply to our lives?" *(Possible Answers:* We are also called to live with mercy, humility, love, forgiveness, and patience. By studying scripture, we come to know God even more, filled with a desire to sing and praise God for His mercy and love towards us. Our prayers and praises of God will enrich our lives and those around us.)

Parent Explains: This Sunday's gospel was written by St. Matthew. It is one of four written accounts of the life of Jesus Christ, found in the New Testament of our bible.

Parent or child may read aloud from Matthew 25:14-30. [Click here for OCA website link.](#)

Parent Asks: "What happened in this Sunday's Gospel reading?" *Possible Answers:* (Jesus talks about how people receive gifts from God and need to use them for the glory of God. St. Matthew tells a parable that Jesus uses to teach about responsibility. We hear about how three men made use of the talents given them by their Lord. The parable says the Master gives different amounts to the three servants. The master wants the servants to develop and use the talents so they can make a difference in the world, and then report back what they have done. Two of the servants do a good job, and one doesn't do anything, which is too bad. The master is happy with the two who used their talents, and angry with the one servant who did nothing.)

Parent Asks: "Why is this important for us now, living in the 21st century?" *Possible Answers:* (The Lord expects the three men to make good use of the resources to increase their value before he returns. We are also given blessings and gifts from God to use in our life, especially the gift of God's Grace, Mercy and Forgiveness. It's up to us to use and develop these gifts in our life so that when we stand before the Throne of God, we can present them to God in the best possible way.) "Our relationships with God are an active experience, and we use our time to grow closer to God, deepening our faith and abilities to lead profitable lives. As we come to know more about God, we come to know more about ourselves and how we have a responsibility to make use of the time we have and forgive others as we want God to forgive us."

Day 2: Talking About Talents

Parent Asks: “God has given each of us things of value to care for, grow, and manage during our lifetime. It’s up to us to use them to the best of our ability. What did the lord expect all three servants to do with the Talents?”

Possible Answers: (Use them to exchange, trade, or barter to make more Talents. Work with what they have, doing their best. Use their abilities to do what was asked/expected of them.) “The servants are given responsibilities and are expected to manage them wisely.”

Parent Asks: “How does our relationship with God resemble that of the lord and the servants?”

Possible Answers: (God gives us responsibility to care for the Church and those less fortunate. We have talents and abilities which can be used to positively impact the lives of others.) “Unlike the servants in the parable, we CAN call on God to help and guide us in our life to use our skills and gifts to the best of our ability.”

Parent Asks: “This Gospel teaches us the valuable lesson of using our gifts and talents received from God. If we have a choice between sharing with friends or keeping our toys to ourselves, what should we do?” (Share) “If we have an opportunity to share with or help another person--with money or food or something we have--what should we do?” (Share, give) “If someone accidentally hurts us or our feelings and asks for forgiveness, what should we do?” (Forgive)

Parent Explains: “Sharing our resources isn’t just about being nice. It’s also about giving of ourselves - being generous and kind. It might be an opportunity to make friends with someone or playing with others to have a better time together than apart. Wasting or misusing our talents and skills is wrong. To waste something from God is also a sin. The same can be said for prayer and attending liturgical services. These spiritual activities are for our benefit - so it’s important for us to make them part of our life. To not make them part of our life will make it harder for us to be good Orthodox Christians, Our Orthodox Faith can help us grow closer to God, leading a life of value and meaning.”

Day 3: Festal Hymns

2. Read or sing together, then discuss:

Sunday Troparion – Tone 1

When the stone had be sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third, O Savior, granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:
Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind!

Sunday Kontakion - Tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,
raising the world with Thyself.
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished.
Adam exults, O Master!
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage, and cries to Thee:
Thou art the giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!

Tuesday Festal Troparion – Tone 1

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls,
Who grants us the Resurrection!

1. Parent Asks: "What is the troparion (tro-par-ee-ohn) and Kontakion (kon-tahk-ee-ohn)?" (theme songs for each feast, celebration, or saint, these hymns describe what or who we're celebrating, and how this event or saint is important to our lives as Orthodox Christians)

These are celebratory hymns, rejoicing in God's mercy and wonders. Feel free to add them to your mealtime or daily prayers!

3) Parent Asks: "What do the hymns teach us about the resurrection?"
Possible Answers: (Jesus' tomb was sealed after He died, so no one could get in...or out! The power of God is no match for large rocks or boulders--or the guards. The angels praise and glorify Christ. Christ is God, and rose from the dead on the third day. Adam and Eve rejoice, because they no longer are held by the devil. Christ provides a path to heaven for us.)

Parent Asks: "How can the message of the hymns apply to our lives?"
Possible Answers: (We sing "Glory to God!" like the angels. Our hymns of gratitude and praise are what God wants from us. When we sing these songs, we profess our belief in Christ as the Son of God who rose from the dead. The resurrection is a symbol of God's love for us. We praise God with the angels, because all creation recognizes His power and majesty. Christ's death and resurrection makes it possible for us to live in joy.)

Parent Asks: "Who are we calling the shining Sun, the enlightener of people in darkness?" (Jesus is the Light) "How can we be the Light of Christ?"

Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Parent or Older Child Explains: The feast of The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple (also called The Presentation of Christ in the Temple) is celebrated 40 days after the Nativity, on February 2nd. The date is significant, because it corresponds with the Jewish law's requirement to bring every firstborn male to the Temple 40 days after birth and dedicate the child to God. **The parents offered a sacrifice as a redemption of the child--a lamb if the parents were wealthy or turtle doves if they were poor.**

Being faithful Jews, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple 40 days after his birth. **There they meet two elderly people who were eagerly awaiting their Messiah.** The righteous Simeon was a noted scholar who had spent much time studying the prophecies foretelling the Messiah. During his prayer and study, he was told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Redeemer of Israel.

Inspired by the Spirit, Simeon recognized the baby brought by Mary and Joseph to be redeemed under the Law to be the Redeemer himself. He took the child into his arms and blessed the Lord, saying his famous canticle that is sung in every Vespers service in the Orthodox Church today:

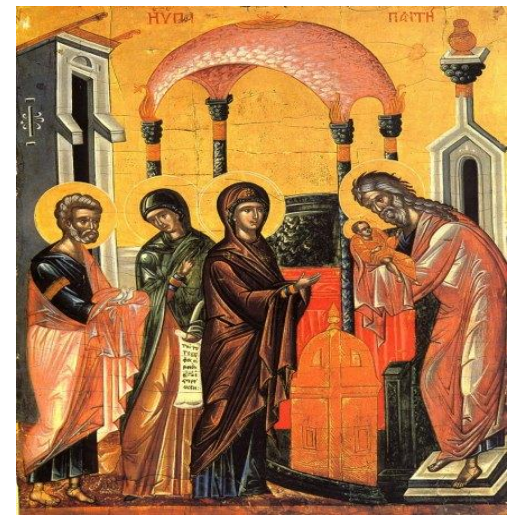
“Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to Your word. For mine eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples. A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel” (Luke 2:29).

Furthermore, he prophesied that Christ would cause “the fall and rising of many in Israel” and the suffering of Mary his mother (Luke 2:34).

The Prophetess Anna, a widow who spent all of her time praying and fasting in the Temple, heard Simeon and also recognized Jesus as the Messiah. She gave thanks to God and went out to tell others that the Christ had come.

Why is this feast important?

The feast reveals several important truths about our Lord.



- First, that he perfectly fulfills and shows himself to be the purpose for the Jewish Law.
- Second, Christ is also the foretold end of all the Old Testament prophecies.
- Next, Christ is recognized as the Light of the entire world, including the Gentiles.
- Finally, the wonder of the Incarnation is again realized as the hymns of Vespers point out: “Receive Him, O Simeon, whom Moses on Mount Sinai beheld in darkness as the giver of the Law. Receive Him as a babe now obeying the Law. For he it is of whom the Law and Prophets have spoken, incarnate for our sake and saving mankind” (Vespers Verses for the Feast).

6 Ways to Celebrate the Feast!



1. Attend Divine Liturgy and Learn the Troparion

As always, the best way to enter fully into the joy of the feast is to attend Divine Liturgy or Vespers. The services are filled with beautiful imagery and symbolism about Christ as the Light of the World, which lead to excellent discussions with children.

Parent asks: “What is light? What does it do? How is Christ like a light? How are we lights?” *You might be amazed at the insight and depth of thought that even the littlest ones have on this subject.*

It can also be a good time to review or learn the canticle of St. Simeon, “Lord now let your servant depart in peace.” This song makes a lovely bedtime hymn to sing as a family or with each child separately while tucking them into bed at night.

2. Bring Home Blessed Candles

Many churches bless candles at Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, because of St. Simeon’s reference to Christ as a Light of revelation to the Gentiles.

If your church practices this tradition, be sure to bring home blessed candles to put in your icon corner. Then, have children hold them during family prayer time or even when you read the Gospel at home.

3. Light Up the House

Another way to integrate the theme of light into your celebration is to “light up your house.”

Fill your house with candles. Perhaps you can eat meals by candlelight or pray your Evening Prayers solely by the light of a candle.

6 Ways to Celebrate the Feast!



4. Talk about Churchings

The Orthodox tradition of churching-bringing a mother and child into the church 40 days after the birth of a baby-comes from the Jewish rite seen in this feast. This makes the feast an excellent time to tell the children about their own churching, to look at pictures, or to talk about the practice in general.

5. Call Elderly Relatives

Finally, two pious elderly saints, Simeon and Anna, play a major role in the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. This can serve as a good reminder to children of the importance of our elders and their wisdom. **Perhaps children can call grandparents, great-grandparents, other relatives, or members of their church community on this day to maintain a vibrant relationship with the elders in their own life.**

6. Learn More about St. Simeon

Finally, the children can learn more about the life of St. Simeon as taught by the church tradition. His story is a fascinating one of doubt and faith, of patience and perseverance, that is an example to all. These small, simple activities can help make the feasts of the Church more real in the home. **Have a blessed feast!**

Feast Day Skit

Live From Temple Mount

a modern day news report from a sacred site in Jerusalem

*On February 2, we celebrate the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. We have a short skit for you to explain what happened at the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after Christ's birth.

Cast (8 parts): Anchor #1 (Ray O'Light), Anchor #2 (Greta Feast), Reporter (Emma Nate), Law of Moses (a police officer type), Lev Iticus (A scholarly nerd), Tobit (A talking Torah Scroll), Tay Per (A friendly talking candle), Roman Soldiers, Bob (A rapping pigeon).

Script: Cast movements are included in italics. Students can be encouraged to incorporate their own actions based on their roles in the skit.

Props: "Dress up" based on your role (a clip-on tie and microphone for Emma, a bible for Lev Iticus, a prayer shawl and yarmulka for Tobit, etc. whatever items the students want to use to bring the other characters to life.)

Goal: Tell the biblical account of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple with a touch of humor and creativity.

Performance: If doing the skit in person, create a set which has a TV news desk and another set for the Temple

If doing the skit remotely, consider recording your Zoom or Google Meet session to share the production with family and friends. Or record it using Instagram or Facebook, tagging #orthodoxjourneys and @wilmingtonoca so we can see your production!

Anchor 2 (Ray): Good morning, I'm Ray O'Light.

Anchor 1 (Greta): And I'm Greta Feast. Welcome to Eyewitness News 7, your source for time traveling news, where we channel the power of your imagination to discover more about the great events of the Bible.

We have Breaking News coming in today from Jerusalem where Jesus Christ was just brought to the Temple.

Anchor 2: That's right, Greta. Hard to believe forty days have already passed since Christ's birth in a cave, yet here we are already in February.

We're hearing that the infant Jesus was brought into the Temple by His Mother, Mary and Joseph.

Anchor 1: Why did they do that?

Anchor 2: It's customary for the first born male of Jewish families to be dedicated to God.

Anchor 1: Gotcha!

Let's go live to our on the scene reporter Emma Nate to enlighten us on this big event. Emma?

Emma: Thanks, Greta.

As you may recall from last month when we heard from Theo Fannie at the River Jordan, Christ was revealed to be the Messiah at age 30.

It appears we have a similar situation here in Jerusalem some 29 years earlier, but 40 days after His birth.

Anchor 2: Wait, I think I need a calendar – did you say today’s events took place 30 years earlier than the revelation in the Jordan last month?

Emma: That’s right!

Anchor 1: Whoa, this time traveling news reporting can be confusing!

Emma: It’s like traveling through time with a Doctor.

Anchor 1 & 2: Who?

Emma: Yes, but that’s a different show.

Both anchors groan.

Emma: Anyway, here in Jerusalem there were sightings of Mary and Joseph coming to town from Bethlehem with the infant Jesus. It seems they were obeying the Law of Moses which decreed...

Emma is interrupted when two people walk towards her. One, the “Law of Moses,” looking very much like a police officer. The other, “Lev Iticus” looks like an academic.

Law of Moses: Yes, that was me. Thank you, Ma’am, I’ll take it from here. You see, I was received on Mount Sinai in Egypt by Moses. The details are recorded by my friend here, Lev Iticus.

Lev Iticus adjusting glasses and dramatically clearing his throat, opens the Bible and begins to speak in a very formal way as if quoting rules.

Lev: I decree that “When the days of her purification are completed, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb in its first year for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. He shall offer it before the Lord, and make atonement on her behalf; then she shall be clean from her flow of blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, male or female. If she cannot afford a sheep, she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement on her behalf, and she shall be clean.”

Lev closes the bible and smiles.

Law of Moses: Thank you, Lev. There you have it, just as I heard it from God Himself.

Emma: Very impressive. Would you say that Mary and Joseph were obedient to the Law?

Lev and the Law look at each other, they huddle together, “thinking” and “discussing” quietly, and then turn to Emma to respond.

Lev & Law: Yes, they are faithful to God and His Law.

Emma: Very good, I thought that might be the case. Court adjourned.

Lev and the Law look confused, not realizing they were in a courtroom. They shrug their shoulders and wave as they walk away.

Emma: So, there you have it – we have confirmation that Jesus was raised according to the Law.

Anchor 1: Is that all there is to report?

Emma: Oh, no – definitely not. At the Temple, there were a couple people who met Him. I’m being told there was an elderly man, Simeon, about 380 years old, and a prophetess named Anna.

The anchors look shocked.

Emma: Preliminary reports say they’ve already left the Temple.

Anchor 2: Wait, did you say 380 years old?

Emma: Yes, I was told Simeon received a promise from an Archangel that he would live until he saw the prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled.

Anchor 1: Are you sure, Emma? How is that possible?

Emma: Well, Ray, you know we're talking about an angel of God, one of His messengers, and with God...

Anchor 1 & 2: Anything is possible with God.

Emma: Ahhhhhhhh

Anchor 1: God is amazing.

Emma: men!So, as I was saying, reports say Simeon and Anna met Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus at the Temple.

Anchor 2: Is there anything more you can tell the viewers about some of these customs they took part in today?

Emma: Yes, it seems that Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, God Incarnate, the Messiah, was involved in very specific religious and cultural practices of the people of Israel.

The anchors lean forward, paying more attention.

Anchor 1 & 2: Yeah????

Emma: To help answer some of our questions, I'm now joined by a scroll named Tobit. He's here to explain some of the Old Testament context of what has just transpired.

Tobit walks up, wearing a prayer shawl and yarmulka.

Emma: Hiya Tobit, what's the deal? Why did it take Mary & Joseph 40 days to come from Bethlehem to Jerusalem – it's not that long of a walk. What gives?

Tobit: Well, according to Jewish law..., (pointing at "Law")

The Law of Moses waves as everyone looks at him.

Tobit: Any woman who gave birth to a boy was considered unclean for a week and meant to stay away from the church for another thirty-three days before being reunited with the community.

Emma: So, this is the day that she came for a ceremonial cleansing?

Tobit: Presumably, but remember, we're talking about the Son of God here, so this was no ordinary birth.It does remind me of something another scroll talks about –

Emma: What's the scroll's name?

Tobit: 1st Samuel

Emma: Who's Second?

Tobit: No, Who's on First, but that's an overused bit. I'm here to talk about two scrolls of Samuel, recording the history of the people of Israel. In particular, the young Samuel was brought to the sanctuary at Shiloh by his mother Hannah to be dedicated to the Lord.

Emma: Certainly, was that not when they brought offerings of a bull, flour, and wine?

Tobit: It was!

Emma: It was a re-torah-cle question.

Tobit: Oh, today’s event also fulfilled the prophecy from the scroll of the prophet Malachi, who foretold that by saying, “See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.”

Emma: Sounds like that’s exactly what happened today. Say, Tobit, how exactly did you get to be so smart about all these things?

Tobit: Through Os-Moses, of course!

Emma: I should have seen that one coming. Thank you for your words.

Tobit: Naturally. I’m usually not read during Vespers, but am available for bible studies and church school lessons. If you need anything else, just call my scribe.

Tobit walks away, while Emma walks towards an unlit candle which is humming.

Emma: I’m now joined by one of the beeswax candles who stepped away from her responsibilities in the Temple.

Tay Per continues to hum through the following exchange.

Emma: Miss, I understand, uh, errr, um, that you were...ahh, what is it that you’re humming?

Tay: Hi, yes, I’m Tay Per.

Emma: Are you a candle?

Tay: Why yes, you might say I’m Tay Per Candle.

Emma: Of course you are. Why aren’t you lit?

Tay Per continues to hum, which begins to distract Emma.

Tay: Hi, well, my candle WAS lit a while ago, but now it’s out. I think it has something to do with that baby who was at the Temple, so I’m humming “C’mon Baby, light my fire.” But it’s not working now.

Tay smiles, holding up her candle.

Emma: I see, maybe because the Doors don’t play these skits?

Tay is disappointed, and says:

Tay: Yea, I noticed that...

Emma: Back to the Temple, what did you see and hear while you were in there?

Tay: Simeon made a grand prediction, that this little boy would become a Light to enlighten the Gentiles - wow. Maybe I’ll finally take some time off.

Emma: How many other candles were on fire while you were?

Tay: A lot. This feast is unique in that it celebrates both Christ and the Theotokos at once, so it was very bright.

Emma: I see, do you have any insight on the meaning of this new prayer from Saint Simeon?

Tay: I wish I knew!

Scratching her head, thinking out loud...

Well, there was this part about “A light to enlighten...,” ya, I think we got that covered;

Emma: Right, this Jesus is the Light of the world – including both the people of Israel and the Gentiles

Tay: Yea, that's anyone who's not Jewish.

Emma: Right. What else did he say?

Tay: There was talk about this Light being a Salvation for the nation of Israel. I know we've been waiting for that for a while. But the people aren't in agreement – and we flames kind of expect a warrior king to liberate Judea from these Roman Soldiers.

The Roman Soldiers (3-4 of them standing off to one side) have been watching the entire interview. At mention of them, they stand at attention, looking serious, scrunch their noses, and shake their heads.

Soldiers: Yo, we ain't goin' no where, Ms. Candle.

Emma whispers to Tay: Don't worry, things will change when Constantine comes around in a few hundred years.

Tay: Phew! We could use this Light from the infant Jesus. It just might extend to all of Samaria and continue into all the world.

Emma: Perhaps it's a divine light?

Tay: Seems like it.

Emma: It's been an absolute tealight to speak with you today. Such bright insight from a tiny taper.

Tay holds up her candle and walks off, still humming, "C'mon, Baby Light My Fire."

Emma crosses to a feathered bird.

Emma: Our final guest this hour should be grateful to be alive, having narrowly avoided death by sacrifice. Pleasure to squawk with Robert today.

Bob the pigeon is already moving like he's ready to rap.

Bob: Errrr, my friends call me Bob.

Emma groans, rolling her eyes.

Emma: Oh no, I was warned about these rhyming pigeons.

Bob looks suspiciously at Emma, but continues.

Bob: I'm just a lowly 'ol squab. (that's a type of pigeon) I was for sale outside da Temple Ready for faithful to offer me

Bob pauses slightly to ensure the rhyme...

Sacrifice to God for their Bay-bee.

Bob looks smug, as Emma rolls her eyes.

Bob: Joseph went for doves once again.

Emma: At least you're alive to tell us more. What did you see from the outside?

Bob: Simeon and Anna seemed very grateful to receive this child, recognizing Him for who He is and giving thanks to God to be there with 'im.

Bob pauses slightly...

I wish I got some of that recognition around here.

Emma: I'm afraid that doesn't rhyme.

Bob shakes his feathers in dejection.

Bob: Nope.

Emma: I'm certain God will find a purpose for you at some point.

Bob: I wouldn't hold my breath if I were you. I act a little crazy with customers so they'll say "shoo!" I may not be chosen, but us animals hope this kid becomes King, because He's dope. Look I don't want to rant, But I'm all for a new covenant, New laws against this archaic system of sacrifices things that are still livin'.

Emma: Well, when He does establish His Kingdom, we'll be sure to be there. I'll watch for you.

Bob semi-salutes, shakes his feathers and struts off.

Emma: I'm afraid that's all the time we have here in Jerusalem, it's time for me to time travel back.

Anchor 1: Illuminating report, Emma. Thank you.

Anchor 2: To recap, the author of the Law came to the Temple to fulfill the Law.

Anchor 1: His presence filled the Temple with glory.

Emma: It sure did. I'll keep you updated on further developments in this story, but we can confirm that Jesus Christ was presented in the Temple to God, and revealed to Simeon and Anna!

Anchor 2: That's awesome, Emma. We will keep you informed of any further developments in the life of Christ. Greta Feast, what do you think?

Anchor 1: I think these puns are rather bright, Ray O'Light.

Anchor 2: I meant about the next great feast.

Anchor 1: Oh right – I'm thinking end of March, we should probably be about nine months from Christmas – good time to visit the Virgin Mary in Nazareth.

Anchor 2: Until then, I'm Ray O'Light

Anchor 1: And I'm Greta Feast for Eyewitness News. Have a Blessed Feast everyone, and remember, Christ is in our Midst!

All: He is and ever shall be!