



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

December 28, 2014

1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalms 148 (13)

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40



A Promise is a Promise. *Object:* A calendar for the New Year.

It is the beginning of a New Year. A brand new calendar for a fresh start on life. Most people start the new year by making some New Year Resolutions. Making a resolution is like making a promise to ourselves that we are going to do certain things. Usually it is a promise to do better next year than we did last year. Here is a list of resolutions that might be good for children to make.

- I will watch less TV and get more exercise.
- I will wear my seat belt every time I get in a car.
- I will be nice to other kids. (Even my brothers and sisters!)
- I will put away my toys when I am through playing with them.

Can you think of some more resolutions you could make?

Some people don't take New Year's resolutions very seriously. After all, they are just promises to yourself. If you don't follow through, it's no big deal. Well, it is a big deal! A promise is a promise -- and it is important to keep your promises -- even if it is just a promise to yourself.

God is always faithful in keeping His promises. In the Bible, there is a story about a man named Simeon. Simeon was a very old man who had faithfully served God all of his life. Simeon was looking forward to the coming of the Messiah. God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Christ, the promised Messiah.

A few days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him to the temple to dedicate him to God. Simeon was in the temple as he usually was. As soon as Simeon saw the baby, he knew that Jesus was the Christ and that God had kept his promise that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

Simeon took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, "Lord, now let your servant die in peace. As you have promised, I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people."

Anna, a prophet, was also in the Temple. She was always at the Temple worshipping and praying. She came along just as Simeon was talking to Mary and Joseph. When she heard what Simeon was saying, she began praising God and telling everyone that this child was the Savior that God had promised. Both Simeon and Anna knew that God is faithful to his promise just as he is faithful to his promises to you and me.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia (Col. 3:15, 16)

Today, as we begin a new year, let's remember that just as God is faithful in keeping his promises, we should be faithful in keeping our promises. It doesn't matter whether it is a promise to ourselves, a promise to a friend, or a promise to God. After all, a promise is a promise!

Dear Father, just as you are faithful to keep your promises, help us to be faithful in keeping our promises. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Word Search Puzzle

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J O H I S R A E L D D L E F J
J M I A A P E H L O E O O M K
B R P W L H Z V V I I V V C K
K I K R V J P B E C G Z O E C
L G Y T A L S I Z A O H H U S
U H U E T I H I G R L U T F T
A T S M I I S M M E K E R Z Y
J E A P O E Q E O E O W D T V
E O C L N P C G D B O N H F S
S U R E O J Z R V J T N S M Q
U S I S P I R I T Z O M Q A N
S J F E P A R E N T S S H F T
P L I P P R O M I S E D E J P
B B C C K Z M A R Y P Y R P U
R O E M V M C H I L D P N O H
    
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SPIRIT	RIGHTEOUS	PRAISED	COURTS	TEMPLE
CHILD	DEVOUT	LIGHT	JOSEPH	JESUS
PARENTS	SALVATION	ISRAEL	REVEALED	PIGEONS
SIMEON	PROMISED	DOVES	SACRIFICE	MARY

POCKET PROMISES: Children can be given construction paper to cut into two pieces. - the smaller square of paper (the pocket), can be taped to the larger piece of paper and little pieces of paper can be cut to place into the "pocket" with promises written on each slip of paper for children to be reminded of promises that we can make.

PROMISE STAR: Let children have 5 craft sticks and a crayon to lightly color one side of each stick. Then glue the middle of the sticks together on top of each other to form a star. Before gluing the sticks together, children can write a promise on each end of all the craft sticks for promises that they would like to keep. Share promises with the class.

SIMEON AND ANNA THANK GOD

LUKE?



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