

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way



December 31, 2017

**First Sunday After
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. 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.

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 worshiping 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.

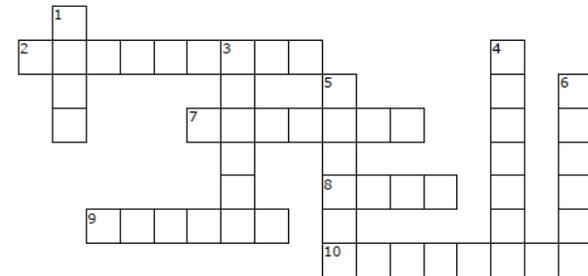
Today, as we begin a new year, let's remember that just as God is faithful in keeping his promises, we should be faithful in keeping our promises.

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.

- Used by Permission by sermons4kids

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)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. Deliverance from the penalty of sin
7. Something you said that you would do
8. The organs for seeing in the faces of humans and animals
9. A building dedicated to religious ceremonies or worship
10. The town where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived

DOWN

1. The mother of Jesus
3. The homeland of the Jewish people
4. A person who is not Jewish
5. The man who was promised he would not die until he had seen the Messiah
6. The earthly father of Jesus

TEMPLE	SALVATION	MARY	NAZARETH	ISRAEL
SIMEON	JOSEPH	GENTILE	PROMISE	EYES

SNOWFLAKE PRAYER: Give the child a square or round white piece of paper and fold as many times as possible. Help the child to cut little notches out on all the FOLDED edges. UNFOLD their new snowflake and let the child write promises around the snowflake and hang in their bedroom to remind them of the importance of keeping their promises as GOD does.



Simeon and Anna Thank God
Luke 2