

Introduction: We Are Waiting for the “Real Hero”

- The world’s image of a hero: overwhelming power, a dazzling appearance, strength that defeats evil.
- The Savior in the Bible: He appeared as a powerless “baby.”
- We learn from the confession of Simeon, an elderly man who held the Savior in his arms at the temple in Jerusalem.

1. What kind of Savior is He? (vv. 21–24)

- **He came as One who “obeys”:**
The One who has the authority to establish the rules chose to begin His earthly life as a human being who obeys the Law (the rules).
- **He is the One who “comes down low”:**
The offering His parents brought was not a “lamb” but “doves,” which points to a poor household.
- **He is the One who knows our weakness:**
He did not come to command us from on high, but to share in the hardships and pain of everyday life.
“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses.” (Hebrews 4:15)

2. Who is the Savior? (vv. 25–32)

- **Breaking 400 years of silence:**
A time when prophecy had ceased and darkness surrounded the people. Even in the silence, Simeon waited for God’s promise.
- **Guided by the Holy Spirit:**
Simeon recognized this child as the Savior not by knowledge, but by the work of **God the Holy Spirit**.
“The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.” (Luke 11:13)
- **A light for all people:**
Not only for a limited group, but a shared light that shines on **all nations (the Gentiles)**—including us Japanese.

3. What does this Savior bring to us? (vv. 33–35)

- **A turning point in life:**
Whether one accepts or rejects Him determines whether a person will “fall or rise.”
- **A light that exposes the heart:**
When light shines in, the sins and stains we want to hide are revealed—so He will be opposed.
- **The cross as the “sign”:**
The sword that pierced Mary’s heart (the pain of the cross). Because Jesus took upon Himself all our “opposition” and “pain,” we can rise anew.

Conclusion: The Best Christmas Gift for You

- What Simeon embraced was **peace**—enough to bring his life to completion.
- The Savior is God’s gift, who came so that you can rise from sin and despair.
- “Ask, and it will be given to you.”
- In the light of Christmas, let us welcome true peace and step into the new year (2026).