**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 – OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS [C]**

**"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."**

**Simeon asks God to let him go in peace. He has seen the Messiah of the Lord. The first part of the prophecy of the Holy Spirit addressed to him has been fulfilled. Now the second part can be fulfilled: that dealing with his death. Let us remind what the Holy Spirit had preannounced to Simeon: “That he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.” Simeon would have died only after having seen the Messiah of God. The Messiah of God has been seen by him, he is still holding Him in his arms, he can go in peace. Simeon attests the fulfilment of the prophecy of the Holy Spirit with words fully revealing the truth of Christ Jesus. Who is the Messiah of God according to Simeon? The Messiah is not one of the many salvations of God. He is the unique and only salvation. God has no other salvation but his Messiah. Messiah and salvation of God identify each other, they are one only thing. This truth must be planted in the heart of each man. There is no other true salvation of God away from his Messiah.**

**Who is still the Messiah of God Simeon proclaims to our heart and our spirit? The Messiah is not a particular, singular salvation, for one man, few men, one people, few people, one time, few times. On the contrary, he is the salvation God has prepared before all people. All people, in seeing the Messiah of God, must know what the true, full, perfect salvation of God is. No people are excluded from the salvation of God, from this salvation of God, namely from the Messiah. All people must know this salvation. All people must enter it. This salvation is universal: before all people, for all people, before each man, for all men. The Messiah is the true Saviour of man, the true Saviour of the world. The one who prepares this Salvation is God. Who is the God Simeon speaks about? He is the unique Creator, the only Lord, the only God of every man. He is the God who has made Heaven and earth. He is the God who is the only Lord of Heaven and earth. This is the God Simeon speaks about. There is no other God known by Simeon. It is impossible to know another God, as he does not exist.**

**Who is still the Messiah of God for Simeon? He is the light that must reveal God in fullness of knowledge, of doctrine, of holiness, of truth, of justice, of love, of mercy, of compassion, of goodness before people. Whoever wants to know who the true God is cannot address to the Old Testament. He cannot even go to other Book or Holy Texts. They do not reveal who God according to truth and charity is, either. Whoever wants to know who God exactly is must look at this Light, at the Messiah of the Lord who is that Child Simeon is holding in his arms. Christ Jesus is the true revealer of God. He is the light enlightening the true mystery of God before all people and who unveils it in his full truth. These words find confirmation in the words Christ Jesus will say about himself as unique, only knower of the Father, as unique, only revealer of the Father. Whoever does not know Christ Jesus does not know God in fullness of truth, of charity, of mercy, of justice, of salvation. Whoever does not know Christ does not know who God is. He deludes himself to know him, but he does not know him. The true knowledge of God is only from the knowledge of Christ.**

**Let us read the text of Lk 2,22-35**

**When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."**

**Joseph and Mary are amazed at what is said about the Child. They are amazed for two reasons, basically: because no one knew who Jesus was, apart from them. Because Simeon’s words are most full and pure truth of Jesus. These words cannot come from a human heart and mind. These are words coming from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit surrounds the life of this Child and reveals it to the one whom He pleases, how He pleases, when He pleases. Simeon knows and speaks of Child by inspiration and inspiration is always of the Spirit of God.**

**Now Simeon speaks to the Virgin Mary directly. He says to Mary what the Messiah of the Lord will fulfil within the people of the Lord and the entire world. The Messiah is for the fall and rise of many in Israel. These words say one only thing, they announce a terrible truth. Whoever accepts Christ Jesus receive the salvation prepared by God before all people. Whoever refuses Christ Jesus refuses the salvation of God. By refusing the salvation of God he has no other salvation to grab on to. Whoever refuses the Messiah of the Lord falls from salvation loses it and loses himself. One loses as one has refused the Messiah, the salvation prepared by God for him. Instead, whoever accepts the Messiah, rises, is born again, enters the true salvation. He abandons every partial or incomplete salvation and enters the full, lasting, perfect salvation. The Messiah of God is not a facultative option, before other salvations, equally good. Christ Jesus is the salvation of God, the only, the unique. Other salvations do not exist. God has not prepared them. Jesus is also sign of contradiction. In which sense is Jesus sign of contradiction according to the words of Simeon? Before Him, every heart will show up in its truth, if it is true, in its falsity, if it is false. There is no hypocrisy in which hiding oneself before Him. There are no deceits. He knows men’s thoughts before they are conceived, formulated, pronounced by them. Unfortunately today one is making the entire most pure truth of Christ a lie and a falsity. We are responsible.**

**Simeon associates the Virgin Mary with Jesus’s martyrdom. Christ has been pierced in flesh, nailed in hands and in feet. The Virgin Mary is pierced in soul, nailed in her spirit. Jesus is on the cross. The Virgin Mary is at the feet of the cross. The sorrow of the Son is sorrow of the Mother and the sorrow of Mary is sorrow of the Son. One only sorrow, one only martyrdom. Perfect communion of life, of truth, of martyrdom.**

**Jesus is a sign of contradiction as before Him the thoughts of many hearts are unveiled. If the heart is simple, pure, righteous, holy, loving the truth, it will reveal its essence of good before Christ Jesus. If the heart is turbid, tenebrous, envious, arrogant, enemy of God and of truth, smothered of truth, it will show its nature before Christ Jesus. Before Christ Jesus no hypocrisy will endure. The one who loves God is the one who accepts Him, Christ Jesus. The one who does not love Him is the one who does not accept Him, Christ Jesus. No one might say to be a true faithful without Christ the Lord. The true faithful accepts Jesus the Lord. The false faithful neglects, denies, refuses Him. Before Christ Jesus the light will show itself to be light and darkness will reveal to be darkness. Every heart will unveil itself before the Messiah of God. Malice and hypocrisy do not endure before Jesus the Lord. May the Mother of Jesus help us preach, proclaim, testify Christ the Lord upon the model and the example of Simeon.**