

**Old Testament Reading:**  
**Isaiah 61:10–62:3**

- <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the Lord;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments  
of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of  
righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest  
with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her  
jewels.
- <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in  
it to sprout up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness  
and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.
- <sup>62:1</sup> For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be  
quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as  
brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.
- <sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- <sup>3</sup> You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand  
of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your  
God.

**Epistle: Galatians 4:4–7**

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come,  
God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born  
under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were  
under the law, so that we might receive adop-  
tion as sons. <sup>6</sup>And because you are sons, God  
has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,  
crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer  
a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir  
through God.

**Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22–40**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purifica-  
tion according to the Law of Moses, [Mary  
and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem  
to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written  
in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first

opens the womb shall be called holy to the  
Lord") <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to  
what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair  
of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup>Now  
there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name  
was Simeon, and this man was righteous and  
devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel,  
and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it  
had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit  
that he would not see death before he had  
seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the  
Spirit into the temple, and when the parents  
brought in the child Jesus, to do for him  
according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took  
him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

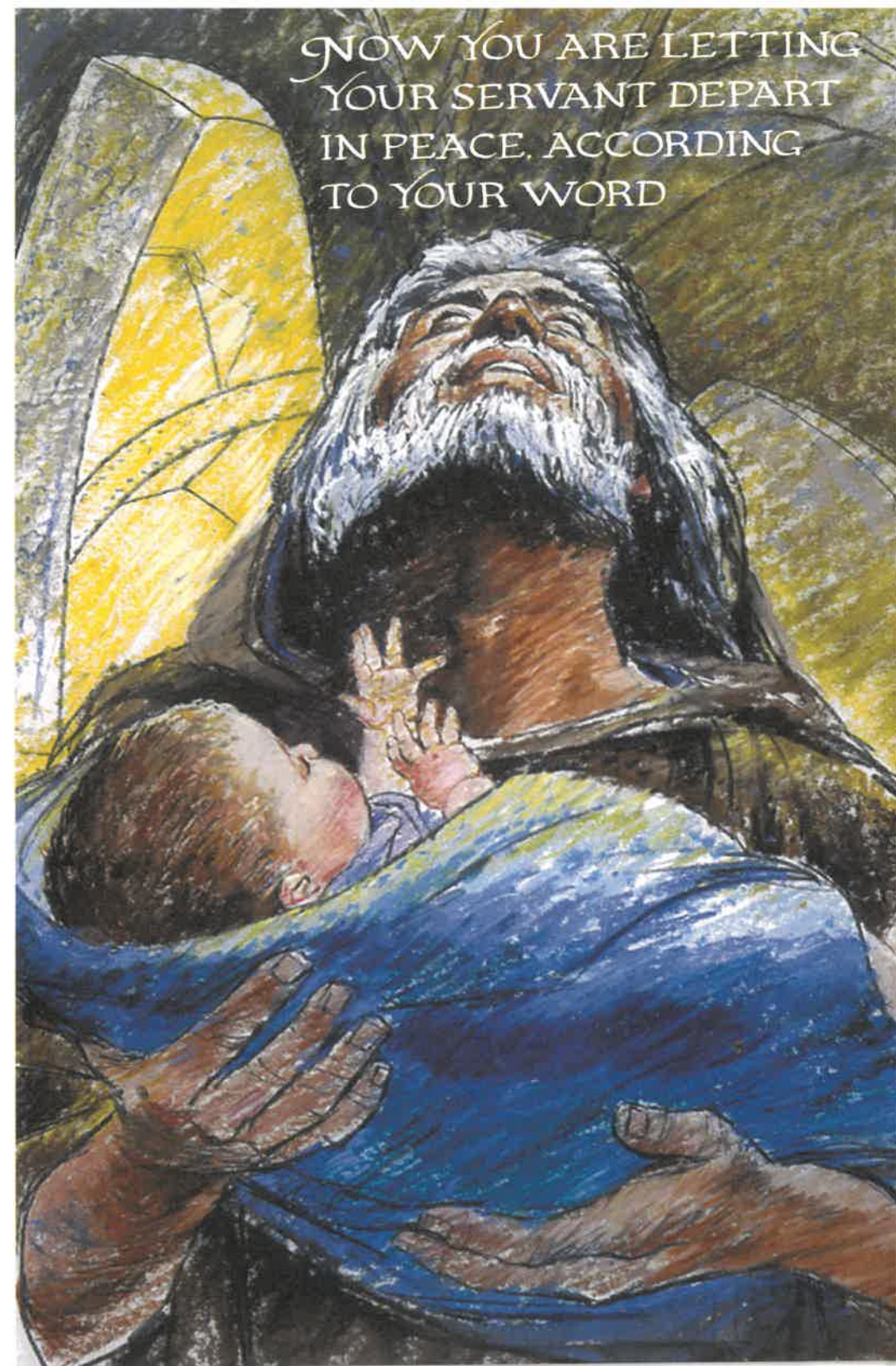
- <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant  
depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation  
<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence  
of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled  
at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon  
blessed them and said to Mary his mother,  
"Behold, this child is appointed for the fall  
and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign  
that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce  
through your own soul also), so that thoughts  
from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna,  
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.  
She was advanced in years, having lived with  
her husband seven years from when she was  
a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she  
was eighty-four. She did not depart from the  
temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer  
night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very  
hour she began to give thanks to God and to  
speak of him to all who were waiting for the  
redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed every-  
thing according to the Law of the Lord, they  
returned into Galilee, to their own town of  
Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became  
strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of  
God was upon him.

NOW YOU ARE LETTING  
YOUR SERVANT DEPART  
IN PEACE, ACCORDING  
TO YOUR WORD



**About the Cover:** How joyously Simeon must have exclaimed as he held the Savior of the world in his hands! We are not told how long Simeon waited to see the Messiah, but what a divine peace that God gives in this little child. Christ has come to die and rise in order to bring life, and this means peace for those who wait on the Lord. Because Jesus has come to us, our lives are in God's hands!