

**In Memoriam**  
**† Glen Tuttle †**  
**Luke 2:29-30**  
**September 26, 2005**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**Boise, Idaho**  
**Pastor Tim Pauls**

### I. St. Simeon's Gain

The Word of the Lord from St. Luke, chapter 2: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation” (Luke 2:29-30). This is the Word of the Lord.

I cannot tell you much about Simeon, because there simply isn't much to tell. Although we usually think of him as an old man, we have no clue as to his age. We have no idea whether he had a successful life, an unremarkable existence or a scandalous past. The Bible simply doesn't say. But there he is in Luke 2, waiting in the temple courts—waiting expectantly. Whatever he has been before, he is a devout man who trusts in the promises of God; and in a world of sin and sorrow and heartbreak and death, he is waiting to see the Consolation of Israel. He is waiting to see the Savior who will conquer sin and sorrow and heartbreak and death. He will not have to wait much longer: the Holy Spirit has revealed to him that the Savior is coming to the temple today. Today Simeon will see his salvation.

The temple is always a busy place. Pilgrims mill around, rituals are conducted and priests go about their business. In the midst of the hustle and bustle, a young couple brings their 40-day-old boy for the ritual of consecration. They're hardly remarkable in their poverty, and to the eyes a baby is a baby. But by the work of the Holy Spirit, Simeon knows that he sees his Savior. He approaches the couple, takes the Baby in his arms, blesses God and says: “Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.”

Against the backdrop of life in Jerusalem, Simeon may appear a bit crazy to passersby. It's a world of oppression and war, where Rome deals out punishment with a heavy hand. It's a world of loss and lack and high mortality rates. And in the middle of this world, Simeon's declaring to God that this helpless Baby is the Savior. Crazy. But this is crazier to those who see only the oppression and war and loss and lack: Simeon is actually declaring to the Baby that the Baby is God and the Savior. Simeon is trusting that this helpless Infant is going to save his life and raise him from the dead.

No matter what eyes see that day, Simeon speaks the truth by the grace of God. This Baby is Jesus, just born of Mary in Bethlehem. He is the Son of God in human flesh, become man for a purpose: He is going to grow up and bear the sins of the world to the cross. He is going to die on that cross to suffer the judgment for the sins of the world; and then He is going to rise again. And if He is going to die for all the world, then Simeon knows that He is going to die for him. No matter what the world

sees, by faith Simeon knows that this is his Savior. No matter what the world says, Simeon knows that this Jesus will save him from sin, conquer death and raise him up to everlasting life.

So no matter what the eyes see, Simeon sings his song: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word.” While we know so little of Simeon, we do know of Simeon’s gain. By the grace of God, he believed in the Savior. By the grace of God, he was prepared to depart in peace, according to God’s Word, to everlasting life.

For no matter what those eyes must see, the Word of God is faithful and true.

## II. St. Glen

You and I gather here today because of the death of Glen Tuttle. I had the privilege of knowing Glen for only the past two weeks, and I’m thankful for the honor. The fact that you are here testifies that you have known Glen much longer and much better than I. For you, there is grief this day, and perhaps exhaustion, too; and such are the ingredients of weeping and despair. And why is this so? Because you have seen with your eyes what Glen saw with his: you have witnessed the pains that sin and death and devil sought to inflict upon him. Now, as you knew Glen so much better than I did, I will leave it to you to visit among yourselves with the memories you have of him. Here and now, I will tell you what I know, what I told Glen, and what I now tell you.

Cancer is remorseless. Doctors simply call it “the Enemy.” It seeks to rob its prey of nutrition and energy, then strength and mobility. It presses onward, bringing restlessness and pain. It brings with it all sorts of complications—infection, swelling, pneumonia and more. It takes the most active and vibrant of people and reduces them to weakness, bed-rest and loss. It deprives of both consciousness and rest. Cancer is a bully, an uncaring thug that sin sends to visit and do as much damage as possible. In the case of Glen, your eyes witnessed a lot of this all too much.

And what would we conclude of one who suffered such loss and pain and deprivation? If we judge only with our eyes, then we are only here to grieve. But we walk by faith, not by sight. By the grace of God, so did Glen; and even as he mourned and suffered loss, he did not do so without hope. For by the grace of God, Glen knew the truth, according to God’s Word.

The truth is this: when Christ Jesus died for the sins of the world, He did not do so to be an abstract hope. He died for St. Glen. He died to redeem him and make him His precious, holy child. He rose again so that He might raise up Glen. He lives forever, to give Glen life forever. And how can you and I be sure that Glen is among those redeemed by the Lord? Because the Savior gave these gifts personally to him. When Glen was baptized, the Lord said, “Glen, I know your name, and I have written it in the Book of Life. I have placed My name on you, and I have marked you as My own. I have died your death on the cross already, and in this Sacrament of Holy Baptism I join you to My death—and My resurrection. The day will come when your body fails, but I promise you this: in Baptism, your soul already has eternal life, and I will use your body’s death to raise you up to heaven where there is no pain or sorrow or death anymore.

Time and time again, the Lord spoke His Word to Glen; and as he heard the Gospel that Jesus had died for all the world, the Holy Spirit made clear that Jesus had died for Glen. And time and time again, the Lord made sure to give Glen forgiveness most personally in Holy Communion with these words: “Take and eat, this is My body...take and drink, this is My blood...for the forgiveness of

sins.” And so the Lord worked to strengthen and preserve Glen in the one true faith unto everlasting life.

And what did Glen sing often just after he heard those words? He sang the song of Simeon: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word. For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation” (Luke 2:29-30). The Lord had come to visit Glen. Because he was forgiven, Glen prayed the same prayer as Simeon. And because he was forgiven, Glen was ready to go home.

Glen knew he was ready, too. Knowing God’s promise that in Christ He makes the blind see, the deaf hear, the mute sing and the lame leap like a deer, he looked forward to his deliverance from cancer and his resurrection to eternal life, eternally healed. And the Lord heard the pleas of this forgiven, beloved child, and the Lord held him close throughout these closing days with grace and hope. So this is true today: for the sake of Jesus, Glen is delivered from all of the sorrows and griefs that sin and death sought to heap upon him. The night of weeping is done, and the morning of joy is his forever. The Lord has healed him, has brought his soul up from the grave. He has turned Glen’s mourning into dancing; He has put off Glen’s sackcloth and clothed him with gladness.

At the end of the Bible, the Revelation to St. John gives us this picture of heaven: Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:3-4). Faithfully, the Lord walked with Glen by His Word and Sacraments in this life. And now, behold: Christ Jesus has made Glen new. He has departed in Christ, and so he has departed in peace. His eyes no longer see suffering, but behold His Savior in glory. This is his life and peace forever, and it is your hope in the midst of your grief. Christ has died and Christ is risen. Glen has died, and—in Christ—Glen lives. This is the Word of the Lord, and it is faithful and true.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen