



October 4th- Waiting with Hope

Have you ever had to wait for something that mattered deeply to you? Maybe you waited for healing, for a relationship to be restored, for an answer to prayer, or for an opportunity you had hoped for over many years. Waiting is one of the hardest parts of being human. We live in a world of fast internet, same-day delivery, and instant answers. Yet Scripture reminds us that some of God's deepest work happens while we are waiting.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph bring the infant Jesus to the temple. To most people, they probably looked like an ordinary family carrying an ordinary child. But Simeon and Anna recognized what others could not yet see.

Luke introduces Anna as a prophet. That matters. She is not defined simply by her age, her widowhood, or what she had lost. She is defined by her relationship with God and her calling. Like Miriam, Deborah, and Huldah before her, Anna belongs to a long tradition of faithful women through whom God speaks.

Anna knew grief. She knew what it meant for life to unfold differently than expected. Yet she continued to worship, fast, and pray. Her life teaches us that faithful waiting is not passive waiting. Waiting can become prayer. Waiting can become worship. Waiting can become the place where God prepares our hearts to recognize what God is doing.

Many of us know this kind of waiting. We wait for answers. We wait for healing. We wait for peace in our families and our world. And sometimes we wonder, Has God forgotten me? Is God still working? Anna's life answers: God sees. God remembers. God is still working.

When I think about Anna, I also think about the faithful women who have shaped my own faith. I think especially of my mother. Before I ever stood in a pulpit, I witnessed faith through a woman who prayed, served, and trusted God through difficult seasons. She taught me that faith is not only something we speak; faith is something we live. Sometimes the most powerful sermons are lived through years of prayer, sacrifice, service, and love.

Then comes the beautiful moment. Anna sees Jesus, praises God, and begins telling others about the child. After all those years of waiting, she recognizes God's promise standing before her. And she cannot remain silent. Her waiting becomes witnessing. Perhaps you are in a season of waiting today. Anna reminds us: do not mistake waiting for God's absence. God may already be working in ways you cannot yet see.

And we do not wait alone. Christ meets us in the Word. Christ meets us in the waters of Baptism. Christ meets us at the Lord's Table. Christ meets us in ordinary people and ordinary moments with extraordinary grace. Jesus is the promise fulfilled. Jesus is our hope. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. So may we learn from Anna to wait with hope, worship while we wait, recognize Christ in our midst, and tell others what we have seen. Faithful waiting is never wasted. God is faithful, and Christ comes to meet us.