

The Life of Christ, Wintershall script excerpt

SCENE FIVE

SIMEON

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LUKE: Now, 40 days have passed and the time of Mary's purification has ended, so, in accordance with the Law of Moses, Mary and Joseph are ready to consecrate their first born son to the Lord and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with the Law of the Jewish people. They cannot afford a lamb but offer a pair of young doves.

SIMEON: O Lord I have waited all my life in this temple for a sign from heaven. I have grown old and I am now close to death - but I know, despite my pains and frailty, that you will not take me to your fold until I have seen the Saviour that you have told me I shall see. Let it be soon Lord, I pray for I am tired.

JOSEPH: Look Mary, this is the great new temple built by Herod for the Jewish people where Solomon's temple once stood. We must remember the words of Moses, Elijah and all the other prophets of our people. The Lord our God has visited us Jewish people all through history. We have been marked out by him for special guidance. Now Mary, we are told that it's you and I who have the care of his Son on earth. Let us seek his word in this great temple that we may hear again that it is true and not just our human imagination. Wait here.

Simeon, great one. I am Joseph and this is Mary. We have come to present our first born son to God.

SIMEON takes the bird and gives them to the priest. He then takes Jesus and holds him as if presenting him to God and then presses him close to his chest in love.

SIMEON: I welcome you to the house of God and greet your baby in God's name. *takes baby.* What is your babies name?

JOSEPH: Jesus.

SIMEON: Jesus.

JOSEPH: Where does life come from?

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SIMEON: Life comes from God, Joseph. Only God infused life. It is a gift, freely given. All life in this world comes from God and we must protect and respect it above all else. *Turn to face altar.*

O Lord God of all creation, I offer you this baby, for you to bless and watch over all his life. O Lord, -Mary and Joseph wish to consecrate their first born son, Jesus, to you in Accordance with the law of Moses and the customs of the Jewish people.

He takes a second look at the child

O Lord, as I have prayed this is your Son! Dismiss my now for mine eyes have seen your salvation and the wonder of your coming. As I have prayed Lord, this is your son. He will bring glory to the Jewish people and be a light for the Gentiles. Holy Mary, Mother of God, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you amongst all women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, this baby, Jesus. He will cause turmoil in our world, bring about the fall and the rising of many, yet he will teach truth, inspire love and he will be living proof. And you dear mother Mary will suffer, as if a spear had pierced your soul yet all generations will call you blessed, and sinners will ask you to pray for us.

He hands the baby over to Mary.

ANNA: Now I give thanks to God and I will share with all who seek forgiveness that God's sign for man has come. This is our beginning. Come Simeon, come and rest. Your work is done.

Mary and Joseph are flustered. Mary takes the baby and leaves. Joseph is torn between accompanying her and thanking Simeon.

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Joseph leaves the temple and joins Mary.

MARY: O Joseph, what have we heard - what have we been told?
First the angel, then the message of the shepherds,
now the old ones of the temple.

Joseph goes to give Mary a cuddle.

NO! Let me ponder all these things in my heart
and pray we bring this baby to manhood
for we have the message from them all
that He will be the light for all the world.

They go back to the stable