

Daily Reflections



ANNA THE PROPHETESS

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Entrance Antiphon and Gospel

When a profound silence covered all things, and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

WISDOM 18:14-15

There was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Reflection

The poetic Entrance Antiphon from the Book of Wisdom captures, for me, the Incarnation of the Word – the astonishing truth that our Creator God wanted to become human among us, immersing himself in all things, in order to gather us into one, into the One who is Love. This mystery happened in time, just as the beginning of creation happened at the ‘Big Bang’ billions of years ago and continues evolving to this day. The mystery of the Incarnation of the Word-Made-Flesh, which happened 2,000 years ago, opened up a new era of existence *“in whom we live and move and have our being.”* (Acts 17:28)

Today’s Gospel introduces Anna, a prophetess, who came forward at the time of the birth of Jesus and proclaimed this joyful news to everyone *“who was awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.”* This woman of prayer and fasting had eyes to see the promised Holy One. Anna, at age 84, Woman of Wisdom, recognized the Child Jesus and the promise written in him – this she proclaimed in a loud voice that continues to reverberate throughout the ages, even to our day. How blessed are we to be dwelling in the *“divine milieu”* provided by the Incarnation of the Word in our midst!



Image created by David C. Robinson, SJ

For Prayer

*As light gives way to darkness
and the busyness of day concedes to night's stillness
As conscious thought surrenders to dreams
and our bodies long for rest
we pause to listen
for the beat of your Presence in all things
pulsing in the light of distant galaxies
sounding in the depths of our soul
vibrating in each vein of earth's body.
One sound as vast as the universe
one universe filled with Presence
one Life within every life.
In the darkness of night
in the stillness that surrounds us
in the unknown depths of our being
we pause to listen.
Be still and aware.*

"PRAYING WITH THE EARTH" BY JOHN PHILIP NEWELL

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