

Simeon must have embraced Him! what tender expressions he must have used! and deeming that nothing else was left for him to look upon, he contemplates Him with his eyes closed, and having nothing more to desire, he asks permission to die, for to separate him from that embrace was to part him from life.

Soul! behold here your happiness, and learn how to obtain it. You have the same Christ of the Lord, not only in your arms, but within your bosom. Nor are you permitted to adore Him only and to kiss Him, as was granted to Simeon, but actually to receive, eat and be nourished by Him. This being your bliss, how great should be your consolation? This is the favour of your God, how great then is your love? What more can you desire in this life, after having attained to receiving Him in Holy Communion? Entreat that you may die to this world and live to God not in the flesh but in the spirit, and on this day more than ever let your conversation be in heaven.

Simeon, deeply conscious of the Divine favours, but with little life left to spend in gratitude, and failing strength to render due thanks, chooses rather to yield up his life. He could not contain himself from loudly publishing the Divine mercies, sweetly singing them like a divine swan, and bidding adieu to every object which was less than God. Not content with remaining alone in his happiness, he holds it forth to every land, communicating it to all the people as the light of the eyes of all the world and the glory of the people Israel. Imitate him to-day in gratefulness, you who have communicated; and having exceeded Simeon in bliss—for once only was he allowed to hold the Child-God in his arms, whilst you are so often permitted to receive Him into your breast—be truly thankful. Break forth in new canticles, emulating this sweetest of sinners, who, in closing his eyes to all terrestrial blessings, opens his lips to sing the Divine glories. Shut your heart to the world, and open it wide for God alone, confessing Him in the council of the just and in the congregation of the upright ones.