

THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Liturgy at Nine-Thirty  
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

*The First Sunday After Christmas is traditionally associated with the Holy Family. The Lucan account of the boy Jesus with his parents in Jerusalem at the time of Passover sets that theme. The reading from 1 Samuel 2 is the story of another precious boy, Samuel, and it includes the lines quoted in the Gospel lection. Psalm 148 is a hymn of praise, primarily for God's creation, but it also calls on all peoples to praise God who "has raised up a horn for his people." The passage from Colossians calls attention to those virtues especially important in family life, providing a catalogue of Christian virtues.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider:* Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. People: Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2.18-20,26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

The word of the Lord  
R/. Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 148



Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. R/.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created. He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will. R/.

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars; wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and wingèd birds. Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world; young men and maidens, old and young together. R/.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven. He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Hallelujah! R/.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach

and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord  
R/. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Colossians 3.15,16

Alleluia. Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 2.41-52

R/. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

The Gospel of Christ

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

*Presider:* God of light, in the birth of your Son we see your glory. May we who share in this mystery grow daily in your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People: Amen

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Presider:* Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People: Amen



William Holman Hunt - The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple