

Readings + First Sunday of Christmas, year C + December 26, 2021

Prayer of the Day

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

First Reading 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

¹⁸ Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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.

²⁶ Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Psalmody Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise,
all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all
you shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you
waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, who
commanded, and they were created,

**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving 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 God’s will;**

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and
flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes
and all rulers of the world;

**young men and maidens, old and young
together.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose
name only is exalted, whose splendor is over
earth and heaven.

**The LORD has raised up strength for the
people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading Colossians 3:12-17

Paul writes: ¹² As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

Holy Gospel Luke 2:41-52

Only Luke includes this story of Jesus in the temple as a young boy.

⁴¹ Now every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and

friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ 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." ⁴⁹ He

said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.