

1 Kings 3:4–15 (ESV)

And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other

king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

Ephesians 1:3–14 (ESV)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him

you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Luke 2:40–52 (ESV)

And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to

Jerusalem, searching 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. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"⁷ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

1 Kings 3:4–15

Ephesians 1:3–14

Luke 2:40–52

The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church

The Lord Jesus “*grew and became strong*” (Luke 2:40); He “*increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man*” (Luke 2:52). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in knowledge and understanding. As our brother in the flesh, Jesus lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up “*to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover*” (Luke 2:41); and when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father’s house (Luke 2:46, 49). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in “*the Word of truth, the Gospel,*” by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain “*an understanding mind*” to go about our vocations, discerning “*between good and evil*” (1 Kings 3:9). And so we also go up to Jerusalem, to stand “*before the ark of the covenant of the Lord*” (1 Kings 3:15), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:

January 10: First Sunday after Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord
Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29 (v.3); Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11

Second Sunday of Christmas

January 3, 2021

INTROIT

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11-12; Antiphon: John 1:14

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.*

*Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.*

*But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.*

*Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *Almighty God,
You have poured into our hearts
the true Light of Your incarnate Word.
Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives;
through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.*

G *♪[Amen]♪*

GRADUAL

Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in Your mercy,*
G **hear our prayer.**