



HOLY FAMILY READINGS

29TH DECEMBER 2024

FIRST READING

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

1:20-22,24-28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the LORD.'

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there for ever.'

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.' And he worshipped the LORD there.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm Ps 83:2-3,5-6,9-10 R/. v.5

R/. *They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord, God of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning,
is yearning for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my soul ring out their joy
to God, the living God. **R/.**

They are happy, who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

They are happy, whose strength is in you,
in whose hearts are the roads to Zion. **R/.**

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer,
give ear, O God of Jacob.

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield,
look on the face of your anointed. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St John 3:1-2-21-24

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we

receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL

Luke 2:41-52

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The parents of Jesus 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?' 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 favour with God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Holy Family - 29th December 2024

The Word of God

Prayer of the Week

As we gaze today at the scene of our crib, so peaceful, so silent, yet also so fragile, we consider how the little drama it portrays stands at the centre of all human history: how it is able to touch and sanctify in principle every single human life. Here we see God among us; received with love and veneration; communicating to all around his perfect holiness, his perfect happiness. In the eyes of the world these three are of no consequence whatever. In the eyes of God, in the sight of the angels, in the light of eternity, they are the truly significant ones on this earth.



They remind us where our own focus should be: where our own happiness most deeply lies. If we have all material comforts, if all our earthly projects go well, and all our ambitions are



satisfied - yet at cost of separation from Christ - then of all creatures we are most to be pitied. But if we have Christ: then even if all other things whatever are taken away, we are rich, blessed, happy, even now, beyond measure. May we all then rejoice this Christmastide in possession of Christ, in friendship with him: ever in union with his Immaculate Mother and St. Joseph. And may the Holy Family lead all whom we love, all who are in trouble, and all who have gone astray, to come at last to the fullness of joy in God that has no end.

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our hearts
in this profound mystery of Christmas.
Put into the hearts of men and women this peace
for which they sometimes seek so desperately
and which you alone can give to them.

Help them to know one another better,
and to live as brothers and sisters,
children of the same Father.

Reveal to them also your beauty, holiness and
purity.

Awaken in their hearts love and gratitude for
your infinite goodness.

Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace.
Amen.

