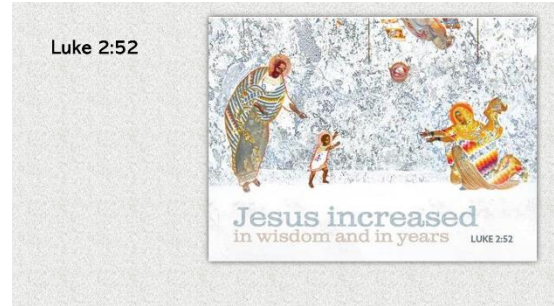


The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

First Sunday of Christmas

Since medieval times, Christmas has been celebrated for twelve days, culminating at Epiphany, the thirteenth day. The first Sunday within these twelve days focuses on the biblical stories about Jesus' childhood: Year A the infant Jesus escaping death by Herod, Year B the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple, and this year the boy Jesus conversing with the temple authorities. Each story anticipates the destiny of Jesus.



[1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26](#) (Includes versus 21-25)

The narrative about Samuel is set parallel to that of Jesus in the temple because also Samuel, whose conception required divine intervention, is given to the service of God and speaks the word of God. Verse 26 parallels Luke 2:52. The boy is clothed in an alb-like robe that signifies his ministry in the temple.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

Each year the psalm for the first Sunday of Christmas is [Psalm 148](#). In this exuberant song, all of God's creation joins us to praise the name of the Lord. For Christians, Jesus bears the name of the Lord. One of God's "faithful servants" is the boy Samuel.

[Colossians 3:12-17](#)

We too are found in the Father's house; we too wear the white robe of baptism. Like Samuel, Mary, and the boy Jesus, we hold the word of God in our hearts. The peace of Christ rules. Our name, that is, the authority under which we present ourselves to the world, is the Lord Jesus. Our habit—that is, both our standard clothing and our practice of life—is thanksgiving.

[Luke 2:41-52](#)

Today we join Mary and Joseph to find Jesus in his Father's house. He both participates in and moves beyond familial expectations and Jewish religious practice. Like Mary, we treasure these truths in our hearts.