

# Feast of the Holy Family C

26 December 2021

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

1 Samuel 1:11, 20-22, 24-28++

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Hannah, wife of Elkanah, had no children;  
she prayed to the Lord and made this vow:

"O Lord of hosts,  
if you will look on the misery of your servant,  
and remember me, and not forget your servant,  
but will give your servant a male child,  
then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death.  
he shall drink neither wine or intoxicants,  
and no razor shall touch his head.

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son.

She named him Samuel, for she said,

"I have asked him of the Lord."

Elkanah and all his household  
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,  
that he may appear in the presence of the Lord,  
and remain there forever;  
I will offer him as a nazirite for all time."

When she had weaned him,  
she took him up with her,  
along with a three-year-old bull,  
a measure of flour, and a skin of wine.

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 the petition that I made to him.  
Therefore I have lent him to the Lord;  
As long as he lives, he is given to the Lord."  
She left him there for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 84:1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 10

**R.** Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O Lord of hosts!  
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. **R.**

Happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise.  
Happy are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion. **R.**

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob!  
Behold your shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed. **R.**

For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than live in the tents of wickedness. **R.**

## **Second Reading**

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

A reading from the first letter of John

See what love the Father has given us,  
that we should be called children of God;  
and that is what we are.

The reason the world does not know us is  
that it did not know him.

Beloved,  
we are God's children now;  
what we will be has not yet been revealed.

What we do know is this:  
when he is revealed, we will be like him,  
for we will see him as he is.

Beloved,  
if our hearts do not condemn us,  
we have boldness before God;  
and we receive from him whatever we ask,  
because we obey his commandments  
and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment,  
that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

All who obey his commandments abide in him,  
and he abides in them.

And by this we know that he abides in us,  
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

cf Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

Luke 2:41-52

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Now every year the parents of Jesus 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 Jesus 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 the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**