

HOLY FAMILY, Year C

First Reading # 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28

For the whole of his life, Samuel shall be lent to the Lord.

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Hannah conceived and, in due course, gave birth to a son, whom she named Samuel, because
'I asked for him from the Lord.'

The man Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. But Hannah did not go, for she had said to her husband,

'As soon as the child has been weaned I shall bring him
and he will appear before the Lord and stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, as well as a three-year-old bull, an *ephah* of flour and a skin of wine, and took him into the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; the child was very young. They sacrificed the bull and led the child to Eli. She said,

'If you please, my lord!
As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood beside you here,
praying to the Lord.

'This is the child for which I was praying, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him.
Now I make him over to the Lord. For the whole of his life he is made over to the Lord.'

Then they worshipped the Lord there.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial # Psalm 83:2-3,5-6,9-10

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling-place,
O Lord of hosts.
My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God.

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.
Blessed are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrimage.

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

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.

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second Reading † 1 John 3:1-2,21-24

He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.

A reading from the first letter of St John

See what great love the Father has lavished on us
by letting us be called God's children,
and that is what we are!

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

My dear friends, we are already God's children,
but what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We know that when he appears
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

My dear friends,
if our own hearts do not condemn us,
we can be fearless before God,
and whatever we ask
we shall receive from him,
because we keep his commandments
and do what is pleasing to him.

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

Whoever keeps his commandments
abides in God, and God in that person.
And by this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † cf Acts 16:14

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

Gospel † Luke 2:41-52

His parents found him in the temple, sitting among the learned men listening to them.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the festival as usual. When the days of the festival were over and they set off home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it.

They assumed he was in the party, and after a day's journey they started looking for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they could not find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him.

It happened that, after three days, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. When they saw him they were overcome, and his mother said to him,

'Child, why have you treated us like this?

See, your father and I have been searching for you anxiously.'

He replied,

'Why were you looking for me?

Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?'

But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in divine and human favour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*27 December — St John, Apostle, Evangelist | 28 December — Holy Innocents
29 December — Fifth day in the octave of Christmas | 30 December — Sixth day in the octave of Christmas |
31 December — Seventh day in the octave of Christmas
1 January —
Octave day of the Nativity of the Lord
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*