

Gospel

2:41-52

from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them 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 favour with God and men.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Gospel thoughts

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for the feast of the Holy Family provide us an opportunity to reflect on 'family values' in a slightly different way. Here the pivotal theme is the union that we enjoy with God, a union of love that makes us children of God, members of the family of God. All other families find meaning and inspiration in this fundamental gathering. The stories of Hannah, Elkanah, and Samuel as well as Mary, Joseph and Jesus are examples of how the plan of God unfolds within the everyday occurrences of family life.

It is out of love that we are called to be children of God. As children of God, we are also joined to God's own Son, who has commanded us to love one another as God has loved all. If we are faithful to that commandment, Christ remains in us. We are bound to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The human family plays a significant role in the fashioning of the broader family of God. The larger family that God initiates is specified in unique historical families, as strange and as complex as those family relationships may be, with their joys and sorrows, their barrenness and their fruitfulness. There is no way of separating this human family and the broader people of God. The plan of God does not unfold in a vacuum, but in the everyday family situations that include separation and misunderstanding as well as joy and celebration.

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Our Sunday Word

The Year for Priests

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

www.nowraparish.org.au

Holy Family Sunday (Year C) - Season of Christmas

27 December 2009

First Reading

1:20-22,24-28

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since' she said 'I asked the Lord for him.'

When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.'

When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull, and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.'

There she left him, for the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127

R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper.

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life.

Second Reading

3:1-2, 21-24

from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

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