

Worship Plan for Sunday, December 30, 2018

1 Christmas

First Sunday of Christmas

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Introduction to the day

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

The reading may be announced:

A reading from 1 Samuel.

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God’s service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband, Elkanah, come to the Lord’s house to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod.

¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli

would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD”; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 148

The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

²**Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴**Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶**who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away. R**

⁷Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God’s will;**

⁹mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,

princes and all rulers | of the world;
¹²**young | men and maidens,
old and | young together. R**
¹³Let them praise the name | of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and
heaven.
¹⁴**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all |
faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. |
Hallelujah! R**

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-17

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Colossians.

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with white robes upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When 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." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

A brief silence.

God of wisdom, open our ears to hear your grace through the words and deeds of children. Inspire the youngest and oldest in our midst to learn from one another with humility and patience. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of creation, praise to you for hills and mountains, fruit trees and forests, animals wild and tame, sea monsters, birds, and reptiles. Spark delight in our hearts for all that you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of hope, call us to peace and bind us together in perfect unity. Make wars to cease. Guide the leaders of the nations in your way of wisdom, compassion, and tolerance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, mend the broken hearts of those who suffer this day. Treasure everyone who struggles with addiction, loneliness, hunger, unemployment, mental illness, or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of life, draw us into the body of Christ and make us grow in faith and hope. Fill us with hearts of thanksgiving made visible in our words and actions for the sake of the whole world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of delight, fill us with songs of praise and hope even in the midst of despair and death. Comfort the grieving (*especially*). Strengthen our faith until the day we will be gathered around your throne singing in eternal praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

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