



ORDER OF WORSHIP

VIRTUAL

1st Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

10:00 am

MEDITATION

In the story of the losing and finding of the boy Jesus in the Temple, the major obstacle to the journey of Jesus appears to be all that is meant by 'family.' Family gets Jesus to Jerusalem in the first, but it also tries to recover him prematurely once he has arrived. The day will come when it will try to prevent him from returning there when it really matters. The experience that the *familiar* gets in the way is common to very many Christians. Houses, brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, children, are part of what Peter and the others had to leave in order to follow Jesus. The pattern goes back to Abraham, who had to leave his parents and his parents' house, and it goes on to our own time.

Geoffrey Preston, O.P., *Hallowing the Time: Meditations on the Cycle of the Christian Liturgy*

PRELUDE: Whither Hasten These Joyous Shepherds?

Claude Balbastre

John Finney, organist

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Jill Edens

Praise God! Praise God in the heavens.

Psalm 148:1, 7, 12

Praise God from the earth!

Young and old alike, men and women together. Praise God!

HYMN: What Child Is This

Greensleeves

New Century Hymnal (black hymnal) #148

“What Child Is This”

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Trusting in God's steadfast love, made known in the gift of Jesus, let us confess.

All: **O Wholly Other, we confess that we have kept you at distance, allowed our self-interest and fear of others to eclipse your wonder and love. Take away the pride and pretense that separates us from each other and you.**

--silent confession--

One: Hear the good news: God has become like us that we may become like God. Thus, we are freed to enter the otherness of those with whom we share life. In so doing, we participate in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God. Amen.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

GLORIA

Gloria

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SOLO: Christkind

Peter Cornelius

Laurie Stewart Otten, soprano

*He who was once a child on this earth, the Christ-child comes again every year.
He comes from the starry heavens, and delights and inspires all the world!
He joyously celebrates with children
the day on which he, the Christ-child, lay in the manger.
All around, in his honor, Christmas trees are illuminated
and joyous music pours forth from church organs and steeple-bells.
The Christ-child comes to the poor and to the rich,
for to him, the good are all alike.
Thank him then, and greet him heartily;
the Christ-child has made you happy as well!*

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:41-52, *NRSV*

Reader: Mimi D'Angelo

This is the only story of Jesus' youth in the canonical Gospels. While it does not reveal much about his childhood or adolescence, the setting in the Temple continues Luke's motif of Jesus' continuity with the traditions of Israel and anticipates the radical commitment that Jesus' teaching will demand of his hearers.

Now every year his parents 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 travelers, 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 he 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 favor.

Reader: For the Word of God in scripture, among us, and within us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: "Make It Count"

Richard Edens

ANTHEM: Rise Up, Shepherd!

arr. Mark Hayes

Laurie Stewart Otten, soprano

PRAYER CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS

Liturgist: Judy Swahnberg

SILENT PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER AND OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Spiritual

New Century Hymnal (black hymnal) #154

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COMMISSION & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel

John Finney, organist

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