

Prayer of the Day

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

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.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

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.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ 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. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ 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." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

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

Prayers of Intercession

Filled with good news of great joy, we pray for the church, the world, and all the daughters and sons of God.

A brief silence.

Loving God, we praise and thank you, in this holy season, for all your blessings. Above all, we give thanks for the gift of your Son who came to dwell among us, bringing light and hope to our world. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Give strength to the church to minister to the world and bring your Son's love and peace to all people. God of love,
hear our prayer.

We pray today for all children and young people, that they may grow in wisdom, and remain in favor with you and with others. God of love,
hear our prayer.

We pray that you inspire all world leaders to work together to put an end to war, oppression, and terrorism. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Bless this church family. Strengthen us to care for one another with compassion, kindness, and patience. God of love,
hear our prayer.

Send your healing love to the sick the suffering, and all those with physical, emotional, and mental needs. God of love,
hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are lost, confused, or searching for meaning in their lives. Guide them, and help them find their way to you. God of love,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who grieve. Comfort them, and give them peace. God of love,
hear our prayer.

God our Heavenly Father, we bring all our prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.