

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

27th December 2009

First Reading

Sir 3:2-14

A reading from the book of Sirach

They who fear the Lord, honour their parents

Listen to me your father, O children; act accordingly, that you may be kept in safety. For the Lord honours a father above his children, and he confirms a mother's right over her children. Those who honour their father atone for sins, and those who respect their mother are like those who lay up treasure.

Those who honour their father will have joy in their own children, and when they pray they will be heard. Those who respect their father will have long life, and those who honour their mother obey the Lord; they will serve their parents as their masters. Honour your father by word and deed, that his blessing may come upon you. For a father's blessing strengthens the houses of the children, but a mother's curse uproots their foundations. Do not glorify yourself by dishonouring your father, for your father's dishonour is no glory to you. The glory of one's father is one's own glory, and it is a disgrace for children not to respect their mother.

My child, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if his mind fails, be patient with him; because you have all your faculties do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and will be credited to you against your sins.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 128

Response: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

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

The wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of the house;
children like shoots of the olive, around the table. **R.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed those who fear the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life.
May you see your children's children in a happy Jerusalem! **R.**

Second Reading

Col. 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear 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. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let 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. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; and the fullness of his message live within you. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Lk. 2:41-52

✠ **A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke**

R. Glory to you Lord Christ.

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

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 travellers, 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 favour.

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.

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