

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**People:** Lord God, Heavenly Father, we are often focused on the wrong things in life. Or we focus on the right things in the wrong way! We fail to put you and your will first in our life. We are distracted or obsessed with things that do not honor you. Or we focus on things that are good: our families and our church and then discover that you are an afterthought. Forgive us for failing to put you first in our lives. Help us to learn from Jesus, who longed to know and live out your will -- even as a child. Renew us by your grace and show us your love and forgiveness again that we might live as your faithful people. Amen

## Scripture Readings

January 3, 2010

### 1 Kings 3:4-15

The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

"Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God!

### Ephesians 1:3-14

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord

**People:** Thanks be to God!

### Luke 2:40-52

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they

began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Outline • January 3, 2010

"The Boy Jesus"

*Luke 2:40-52*

Introduction: "I knew him when..."

The boy Jesus at the Temple

*From a parent's perspective...*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ modeling is a key.

*"Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover." v. 41*

2. A community \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends." v. 44*

3. Where do you search for your children?

*"When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him." v. 45*

- \_\_\_\_\_?

*From Jesus' perspective...*

4. "Help me understand."

*"After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions."*

5. "Didn't you know?"

*"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" v. 49*

6. Obedience \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them... And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." v. 51-52*

- His obedience \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answers to Sermon Outline:** consistent, of accountability and trust, Where do you search for Jesus? allows for growth of all kinds, allows us to be God's children.

### BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATION

Leader: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

People: **I do renounce them.**

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

People: **Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

### THE 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

### THE BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: **And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.**

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**