

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord - a boy wearing a linen ephod. Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the Lord." Then they would go home.

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the Lord and with men.

COLLECT:

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

PSALM: 148

¹ Praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.
² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.
⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for at his command they were created,
⁶ and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.
⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,
⁹ you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,
¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,
¹² young men and women,
old men and children.
¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.
¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn,
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.
Praise the Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 2.41-52

Every year Jesus' 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 travelled 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 favour with God and people.

EPISTLE

Colossians 3.12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Sunday 2nd December

09.30 COV: Parish Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)
09.30 SPA: Morning Worship (*Jill Dighton*)
10.45 KIM: Family Christingle Service (*Lay Leader*)
15.00 STO: Evensong (*Jill Dighton*)

Sunday 9th December

09.30 TIL: Family Service (*Lay Leader*)
09.30 EAS: Parish Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
10.45 KIM: Family Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
15.00 SPA: Messy Church: Christingle (*Lay Leader*)

Saturday 15th December

17.00 TIL: Christingle Service (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)

Sunday 16th December

09.30 COV: Morning Worship (*Lay Leader*)
09.30 STO: BCP Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
09.30 SPA: Parish Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)
10.45 KIM: Matins (*Revd R Lancaster*)
18.00 KIM: Carol Service (*Revd R Lancaster*)

Sunday 23rd December

18.00 EAS: Carol Service (*Revd J. Young*)
18.00 STO: Carol Service (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
10.45 KIM: Parish Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)

Monday December 24th

23.30 KIM: Midnight Mass (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
23.30 SPA: Midnight Mass (*Revd I Brennand*)

Christmas Day Services

09.30 COV w. TIL: Family Communion
(*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
10.30 STO: Family Communion (*Revd Dr J Rawlinson*)
10.45 KIM: Family Communion (*Revd R Lancaster*)
09.30 EAS: Family Communion (*Revd J. Young*)

Sunday 30th December

10.45 KIM: Group Service

The South Leightonstone Group of Parishes

(*Barham & Woolley, Covington, Easton, Kimbolton,
Spaldwick, Stow Longa and Tilbrook*)



Sunday 30th December 2018

First Sunday of Christmas