

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
(Sunday within the Octave of Christmas)
Year A-B-C

NOTE: When a Sunday does not occur between December 25 and January 1, this feast is celebrated on December 30 with only one reading before the Gospel.

Reading 1
Choice #1

Citation: *Sirach, Chap. 3, Verses 2-7, 12-14*
Sirach 3: 2-7, 12-14

Wisdom is dictating, here, reminder us of the essential truths surrounding a life in compliance with God's Will. You are that wise man who everyone turns to for needed advice. Put on the *persona* of the wise person.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

God sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. (slowly) (a very firm statement of fact)
(same firmness) (Pause)

Whoever honors his father
atones for sins, (very short pause)
and preserves himself from them. (very short pause)
When he prays, he is heard; (short pause)
(Pause)

he stores up riches who reveres his mother. (lovingly) (Pause)

Whoever honors his father
is gladdened by children, (very short pause)
and, when he prays, is heard. (short pause)

Whoever reveres his father
will live a long life; (short pause)
he who obeys his father
brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old;
grieve him not as long as he lives. (wise person speaking)
Even if his mind fail, (short pause)
be considerate of him; ("as unbelievable as it may seem")
revile him not all the days of his life; (short pause)
(Pause)

kindness to a father will not be forgotten, (very short pause)
firmly planted against the debt of your sins (very short pause)
-- a house raised in justice to you. (almost hastily added)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 1
Choice #2

Citation: *1 Samuel, Chap. 1, Verses 20-22, 24-28*
1 Samuel 1: 20-22, 24

Hannah's story. Her love of her child is equaled by her trust and love of God. He listened to her; she now gladly returns his gift to him (also an old Jewish custom of giving the 1st born son to God). She doesn't want to be misunderstood by Eli. She is insistent yet calm. Tell her story so that we all can benefit.

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

In those days Hannah conceived,
and at the end of her term bore a son
whom she called Samuel,
since she had asked the LORD for him.

(almost parenthetical)
(very short pause)

The next time her husband
Elkanah
was going up with the rest of his household
to offer the customary sacrifice to the LORD
and to fulfill his vows,
Hannah did not go,
explaining to her husband,
"Once the child is weaned,
I will take him to appear before the LORD
and to remain there forever;
I will offer him as a perpetual nazirite."

(you're describing circumstances)
(almost parenthetical)

Once Samuel was weaned,
Hannah brought him up with her,
along with a three-year-old bull,
an ephah of flour,
and a skin of wine,
and presented him at the temple of the LORD in Shiloh.
After the boy's father had sacrificed the young bull,
Hannah,
his mother,
approached Eli and said:

(very short pause)

(a mother's conviction)

(telling a story)

(short pause)

"Pardon, my lord!
As you live, my lord,
I am the woman who stood near you here,
praying to the LORD.
I prayed for this child,
and the LORD granted my request.

(interrupting; hoping he recognizes her!)

(very short pause)

Proclamation Format

Now I, in turn,
give him to the LORD;
as long as he lives,
he shall be dedicated to the LORD."
Hannah left Samuel there.

(very short pause)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2
Choice #1
Longer Form

Citation: *Colossians, Chap. 3, Verses 12-21*
Colossians 3: 12-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on,
as God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion,
kindness,
humility, gentleness,
and patience,
bearing with one another
and forgiving one another,

(parenthetical expression)
(“ ”)
[A List!]

if one has a grievance against another;
as the Lord has forgiven you,
so must you also do.

(very short pause)

(short pause)

(very short pause)

(Pause)

And over all these
put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.

(very short pause)

(Pause)

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace
into which you were also called
in one body.

(Pause)

(parenthetical expression)

And be thankful.

(urging!) (Pause)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly,
as in all wisdom
you teach and admonish one another,
singing psalms,
hymns,
and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

(very short pause)

(Pause)

Proclamation Format

And whatever you do,
in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

(very short pause)
(parenthetical expression)

(Pause)

Wives,
be subordinate to your husbands,
as is proper in the Lord.

(short pause)

(Pause)

Husbands,
love your wives,
and avoid any bitterness toward them.

(short pause)
(mean it!) (short pause)
(Pause)

Children,
obey your parents
in everything,
for this is pleasing to the Lord.

(short pause)

(Pause)

Fathers,
do not provoke your children,
so they may not become discouraged.

(short pause)

(very short pause)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2
Choice #1
Shorter Form

Citation: *Colossians, Chap. 3, Verses 12-17*
Colossians 3: 12-17

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on,
as God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion,
kindness,
humility, gentleness,
and patience,
bearing with one another
and forgiving one another,

(parenthetical expression)
(“ “)
[A List!]

(very short pause)

(short pause)

if one has a grievance against another
as the Lord has forgiven you,
so must you also do.

(questioning tone) (very short pause)
(very firm tone)
(Pause)

And over all these
put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.

(very short pause)
(Pause)

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace
into which you were also called
in one body.

(short Pause)

(parenthetical expression ?)

And be thankful.

(urging!) (Pause)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you
richly,
as in all wisdom
you teach and admonish one another,
singing psalms,
hymns,
and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

(very short pause)

(Pause)

Proclamation Format

And whatever you do,
in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father
through him.

(very short pause)
(parenthetical expression)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2
Choice #2

*Citation: 1 John, Chap. 3, Verses 1-2, 21-24
1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24*

Take your time as you proclaim this passage. John is reminding us of just who we really are now that Jesus has died and been resurrected. He also points out that this takes a response on our part – to follow His commands and instructions. John shifts from a teacher to a solicitous father to a wise sage. You can do that too!

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.

(a teacher's tone)
(very short pause)

And so we are.

(convinced)

The reason the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

(almost arguing)

Beloved,

we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
We do know that when it is revealed
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

(reassuring)

(triumphant)

Beloved,

if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God
and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments
and do what pleases him.

(almost parenthetical)

(be firm!)
(be firmer!) (very short pause)

And his commandment is this:
we should believe in the name of his Son,
Jesus Christ,
and love one another
just as he commanded us.

(you're advising)

(very short pause)

Those who keep his commandments remain in him,
and he in them,
and the way we know that he remains in us
is from the Spirit he gave us.

(almost urgent)

(conviction)

"

The word of the Lord.

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GOSPEL

Citation: *Luke, Chap. 2, Verses 41-52*
Luke 2: 41-52

Although Jesus didn't see himself as "lost in the temple" his parents did! Contrast their attitudes in your proclamation. Describe Mary's and Joseph's feelings as they frantically searched for him once they realized his was missing. Conclude with the confidence that all is going according to God's Plan.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Each year (you're story-telling)

Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,
and when he was twelve years old,
they went up according to festival custom.

(very short pause)

After they had completed its days,
as they were returning,
the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem,
but his parents did not know it.

(parenthetical)

Thinking that he was in the caravan,
they journeyed for a day
and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances,
but not finding him,
they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

(very short pause)

(faster pace; urgency)

After three days they found him in the temple,
sitting in the midst of the teachers,
listening to them and asking them questions,
and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding
and his answers.

(almost parenthetical)
(surprised awe?)
"

When his parents saw him,
they were astonished,
and his mother said to him
"Son, why have you done this to us?
Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."

(shift tone; urgency now)

(parental anger!)
(still angry)

And he said to them,
"Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

(questioning – not childish)
(firm; convinced)

But they did not understand what he said to them.

(almost sad)

He went down with them and came to Nazareth,
and was obedient to them;
and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

(story-telling)
"
"

Proclamation Format

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age
and favor before God and man.

(convinced; triumph)

The Gospel of the Lord.