

February 5, 2020

The Church Year

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Feast of the Purification and Presentation

Although this past Sunday was the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, it was also the Feast of the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord (this Feast always falls on February 2nd). Here is the summary of readings for this past Sunday as found on the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Website:

1 Samuel 1:21–28

Hebrews 2:14–18

Luke 2:22–32 (33–40)

God Gives the Gift of a Child to Destroy Death

The Lord opened the barren womb of Hannah and gave her the gift of the son for whom she prayed, and in grateful response she presented and gave the child, Samuel, to the Lord's service. *"As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD"* (1 Sam. 2:28). So, too, did Mary and Joseph present the Child promised from the fall, born of a virgin's womb. The true offering wasn't the turtledoves or young pigeons. It was the Child they carried. This Child has come to *"destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery"* (Heb. 2:14b–15). Set free by His advent in our flesh and the promise of what He would do *"in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people"* (Heb. 2:17b), Simeon and Anna rejoiced, and we with them, for we know that we, too, can face death unafraid and *"depart in peace"* (Luke 2:29) when our time comes.

Review

Old Testament

Books of Moses -

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy,

Books of History -

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther,

Books of Wisdom -

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon,

Books of the Prophets -

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

Bible Stories

Jesus Changes Water into Wine—John 2

120 Bible Stories, 168-169

Shepherds Find the Savior

A Child's Garden of Bible Stories, 84-85

Family Devotions

Please put a check mark (✓) in the box identifying what time of day you prayed as well as signing in the far right box. All that is required to earn a check mark is for you to pray the Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer.

| | Morning | Evening | Parent Initials |
|-----------|---------|---------|-----------------|
| Wednesday | | | |
| Thursday | | | |
| Friday | | | |
| Saturday | | | |
| Sunday | | | |
| Monday | | | |
| Tuesday | | | |

Say the Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Bless yourself with the Holy Cross and say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son T and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Say the Apostle's Creed

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

And 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.

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 T everlasting. Amen.

Pray 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 T from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Prayers for ourselves and others

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Message to Parents

After some feedback from parents, we've decided to begin giving students the Christ Academy I handout on Wednesday evenings once again. If students pray the Ten Commandments, Creed, Lord's Prayer, and one of Luther's prayers in the morning *and* evening, it is possible to earn fourteen points per week! Students don't have to review the Bible Story every time they have family devotions. The review could take place at another time altogether. You can reach me at 334-430-1537 if you have any questions or suggestions. The Lord be with y'all!

