

**FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26** The boy Samuel in the service of the Lord (NLT)

<sup>18</sup> But Samuel, though he was only a boy, served the LORD. He wore a linen garment like that of a priest. <sup>19</sup> Each year his mother made a small coat for him and brought it to him when she came with her husband for the sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Before they returned home, Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, “May the LORD give you other children to take the place of this one she gave to the LORD.” <sup>26</sup> Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew taller and grew in favour with the LORD and with the people.

**PSALM: Psalm 148 (NRSV)**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights! <sup>2</sup> Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His host! <sup>3</sup> Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars! <sup>4</sup> Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created. <sup>6</sup> He established them for ever and ever; He fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. <sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, <sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling His command! <sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! <sup>10</sup> Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! <sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! <sup>12</sup> Young men and women alike, old and young together! <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven. <sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to Him. Praise the LORD!

**SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-21** Christian life in the world (NRSV)

<sup>12</sup> As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. <sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.

**GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52** The boy Jesus in His Father's house (HCSB)

<sup>41</sup> Every year His [Jesus'] parents travelled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. <sup>42</sup> When He was 12 years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival. <sup>43</sup> After those days were over, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but His parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming He was in the traveling party, they went a day's journey. Then they began looking for Him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him. <sup>46</sup> After three days, they found Him in the temple complex sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all those who heard Him were astounded at His understanding and His answers. <sup>48</sup> When His parents saw Him, they were astonished, and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for You." <sup>49</sup> "Why were you searching for Me?" He asked them. "Didn't you know that I had to be in My Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what He said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother kept all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and with people.