

LECTIONARY SUMMARIES

FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

(2 January 2022)

1 Kings 3:4–15
Ephesians 1:3–14
Luke 2:40–52

The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church

The Lord Jesus “grew and became strong” (Luke 2:40); He “increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in knowledge and understanding. For as our brother in the flesh, that we might “have redemption through his blood” (Eph. 1:7), He lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up “to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover” (Luke 2:41); when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father’s house (Luke 2:46, 49). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in “the word of truth, the gospel,” by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain “an understanding mind” to go about our vocations, discerning “between good and evil” (1 Kings 3:9). And so do we also go up to Jerusalem, to stand “before the ark of the covenant of the Lord” (1 Kings 3:15), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD / FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(9 January 2022)

Isaiah 43:1–7
Romans 6:1–11
Luke 3:15–22

The Triune God Opens Heaven to You in Holy Baptism

The Baptism of our Lord is an “Epiphany” of the one true God in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. In divine mercy, He takes His place with sinners and takes their sin upon Himself. “When all the people were baptized,” Jesus submitted Himself to a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:21). He had no sins of His own, but He took the sins of the world upon Himself and so was baptized into His own death. Therefore, “when you pass through the waters,” He is with you (Is. 43:2). He created you for His glory, and He has redeemed you with His blood, that you may be His own and live with Him in His kingdom (Is. 43:1, 7). As you are baptized with a Baptism like His, so also are you united with Him in His death and resurrection that you “might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). For all who are baptized into Christ Jesus receive His anointing of the Holy Spirit and are named by His Father as beloved and well-pleasing sons and daughters.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(16 January 2022)

Isaiah 62:1–5
1 Corinthians 12:1–11
John 2:1–11

The Divine Glory Is Manifested in the Signs of Christ

When Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana, it was “*the first of his signs*” by which He “*manifested his glory*” (John 2:11). It pointed to His coming “*hour,*” when He was lifted up on the cross for the forgiveness of sins and the life of the world (John 2:4; 12:23–32). The glory of the cross is incomprehensible apart from the Word and Spirit of God, but disciples of Jesus recognize that glory in the signs of His Gospel, and so they believe in Him. Jesus does not wait for His disciples to discover Him on their own, but He seeks out the forsaken and the desolate and unites them to Himself. He adorns them with His own beautiful righteousness and delights in them “*as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride*” (Is. 62:4–5). Purified by the washing of water with His Word in Holy Baptism, His disciples confess that “*Jesus is Lord,*” and they return thanks to Him “*in the Holy Spirit*” (1 Cor. 12:3) as they drink the good wine that He pours out for them, which is the new testament in His blood.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(23 January 2022)

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

Luke 4:16–30

The Lord Is Manifested as Our Savior through the Preaching of the Gospel

When Jesus opens His mouth to preach, gracious words flow from His lips. The Scriptures are, indeed, fulfilled in your hearing (Luke 4:21–22). For Christ was anointed by the Spirit of the Lord “*to proclaim good news to the poor,*” “*to proclaim liberty to the captives*” and “*to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor*” (Luke 4:18–19). By this proclamation, Christ releases His people from captivity and gathers them to Himself in His Church. So it was when the Lord released His people from Babylon and returned them to Jerusalem. “*Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people,*” sanctified the whole congregation by the reading and preaching of the Law (Neh. 8:8–9). As the people then were urged to “*eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready*” (Neh. 8:10), so are you anointed by the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ to share in His feast and to serve the fellow members of His Body with His good gifts, “*giving greater honor to the part that lacked it*” (1 Cor. 12:12, 24).

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

(30 January 2022)

Jeremiah 1:4–10 (17–19)

1 Corinthians 12:31b–13:13

Luke 4:31–44

Jesus Has Authority to Forgive Your Sins and Give You Life

Jesus was sent to “*preach the good news of the kingdom of God*” (Luke 4:43). His preaching is an epiphany, or manifestation, of God because His Word reveals the authority of His cross and resurrection, by which He has atoned for the sins of the world. By the preaching of His Gospel in every place, He silences the unclean spirits and casts out demons, heals the diseases of body and soul, and restores life and health to His creation (Luke 4:40–41). For the sake of His divine love, He is “*patient and kind*” toward us; He “*bears all things,*” “*endures all things*” and delivers up His body to save us (1 Cor. 13:3–4, 7). So also for the sake of His love, He calls and sends His prophets, as ministers of His Word, “*to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant*” (Jer. 1:10).