

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church



Background: *“Christ grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man”* Luke 2:52. And to Solomon God Said: *“Behold I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you, and none like you shall arise after you”*. 1 Kings 3:12 How are such attributes attained? First of all, as occurred with Solomon and Jesus, devoted parents made a priority to guide their child in understanding the Word of God. They gave the Holy Spirit a chance to work faith in their children. It started with Baptism, but it continues with faithful teaching of the Word through devotions, scripture review, and catechism study as a child. Then it falls on each individual to continue in the word and sacraments and live the sacrificial life that God has called them. In the sacrament, we receive Christ into

our bodies and live with Him to guide our decisions. Of course, like Solomon, we still have to deal with the “Old Adam” but coming to God in prayer, our sins are forgiven and we are renewed to serve Him, our families and our neighbors. **The Lessons: 1Kings 3:4–15, Ephesians 1:3–14, & Luke 2:40–52**

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); and 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.