

Since the children have
flesh and blood, Christ too shared
in their humanity....

(Hebrews 2:14)

Sermon Text
Luke 2:39-52

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

Every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Christ Returning From the Temple With His Parents. Rembrandt (1564).

Old Orchard Church
August 26, 2012
10:15 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

Celebrating the Life of Learning God Gives Us: Jesus in the Temple at Twelve

Blessed be the infinite Lord
For all the glorious things flowing from his Incarnation:

A Jewish pre-teen in the temple
Proves to be the great I AM
Who drew our humanness up into the Godhead.

Praise to our Lord Jesus Christ,
Substitute for us in his death,
Supreme example to us in his life:

As he asked questions,
Listened to other opinions,
Reasoned with his teachers,
And expanded the capacity of his mind.

Praise to him who now rules the universe!
He in whom are hidden
All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,
And yet who still grew in wisdom and in stature, like us.
Alleluia.



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Promise: Isaiah 53:1-2
New Testament Fulfillment: Luke 2:39-52
New Testament Lesson: Philippians 2:1-11

Back to School Sermon

"Asking to Learn, Learning to Ask"
Text: Luke 2:39-52
Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching

Jesus Among the Doctors

What is eternity?
Who was God's mother?
How many stars are there?
Do numbers ever come to an end?
Why is there war?
How do you know if you're in love?
What is gravity?

Children are full of questions, wonderful questions, unanswerable questions.

Jesus, too.

And where better to ask questions than in the Temple where the learned doctors were found, elders who had spent their entire lives in the study of the holy Jewish Law. Jesus was as curious as any bright twelve-year-old child. So when the family made the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem, he went to the Temple where he astonished the teachers with his questions, and also with his answers. And there, at last, his frantic parents found him....

Jesus was an eager questioner, alert, ready to learn. He didn't notice time passing, or realize that his parents might be worried.

Already he was about his Father's business.

And that business, he was to learn, was not the law expounded in the Temple. That business was not law—but love.

—Madeline L'Engle in *The Glorious Impossible* (1990)

We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**