

Luke 2:41-52
First Sunday After Christmas Year C
12.29.2024
Southeastern Iowa Synod Worship
Bishop Amy Current

Happy Christmas! Here we are on the First Sunday After Christmas and our Gospel text for today has Jesus aging from 0 to 12 in a week. In Luke's Gospel, we move what we call Christmas to Passover in the turn of a page. I assume that is how Mary was feeling too as she began to relax after finding her 12-year-old son chatting with the temple teachers after she and Joseph had been searching for him. I can only imagine that it wasn't just that they were terrified parents searching for their preteen, but she had to be thinking; I cannot be responsible for losing the Son of God.

“And Jesus said to his folks, “Why are you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” Then they all went home to Nazareth, and Mary, his mother, *treasured all these things in her heart.*”

Mary, the mother of Jesus, had been comforted by Gabriel, the angel, “Do not be afraid...God has chosen you to give birth to Jesus, the one who will save us”. And she responded, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord.”

Mary, the mother of Jesus, the bearer of the Savior, heard the shepherds, the first witnesses of the birth of Jesus, tell that a whole multitude of angels appeared to them and said, “Do not be afraid...there is good news of great joy for today is born the Savior. You will find him lying in a manger.” And Mary *treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.*”

Mary, the mother of Jesus, the bearer of the Savior, the Messiah, with Joseph, presented Jesus in the temple when he was 8 days old. They were met by Simeon and Anna, who had been awaiting the Messiah and they praised God when they saw the baby Jesus, for they knew that he would be the one who would save the world.

“And Mary and Joseph *were amazed at what was being said about Jesus.*”

Simeon looked at Mary and said, “This child is destined for the falling and rising of many – *and a sword will pierce your own soul too.*”

For Mary treasured these things in her heart and her same heart would be pierced for the words of her heart knew even before Jesus was born that Jesus would bring good news to the poor, release to the captives and sight to the blind.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, the bearer of the Savior, the Messiah, the Son of God, watched as Jesus grew in wisdom and in divine and human favor. For from Mary’s womb, to the manger, to the temple, to the river, to the wilderness, God’s beloved Son began to live God’s love – healing, calling, teaching, preaching, forgiving, calming, restoring, feeding, welcoming, praying, warning, inviting, seeking, blessing, weeping, and making clear God’s love to all – the captives, the widows, the children, the outcasts, the lost, the sinners –

To the cross – where Jesus promised paradise to the criminal hanging next to him –

“Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom. And Jesus replied, Today you will be with me in paradise.”

And as he breathed his last, the crowds who had watched returned home.

“But all his acquaintances, including the women (one of whom was surely his

mother, Mary) who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.”

Then they followed to the tomb, returned home to prepare spices and ointments for his burial...

Mary, the mother of Jesus, the bearer of the Savior, the Messiah, the Son of God, now returned to the tomb on the third day, treasuring all these things in her pierced heart, for her beloved son had been the one who was to save the world, has now died.

And then they encountered another angel, in the empty tomb, who said to them,

“Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.”

Mary, the mother of Jesus, the bearer of the Savior, the Messiah, the Son of God, arisen from the dead, now ran with her companions to share the Good News of Jesus Christ the Son of God Risen from the dead.

The Good News of Jesus Christ who made clear God's love in the world and now who had even conquered death in order to promise paradise to all.

Like his mother, Mary, we are invited to treasure the Good News of Jesus in our hearts! Hear the Good News of great joy! Taste and see the Lord is good! Remember that in baptism you have already died with Christ emerging from the waters to new life promised in Mary's son who is the Savior, the Messiah, the Son of God – crucified, died, and risen – so that all may have life and have life abundantly. Run to tell the others – “Do not be afraid for Jesus, the Savior, is with us and is making all things new.”