

**Possible Prayer of Church ✧ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany January 11, 2026**

*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. [Possible brief silence]*

Heavenly Father, since You have thrown open the gates of this world and sent us Your Son, let us always find Him where He promises to be, in this place of forgiveness, life and salvation. *LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

LORD God, preserve Your Church. By Your mercies, lead us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to You in faith, for the good of our neighbors. Send faithful pastors to preach Your Gospel among us, and help all Christians to think with sober judgment, not considering themselves more highly than others, but each living and serving according to the measure of faith assigned by God. *LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, Your Son diligently heard the Word of God and grew in wisdom and stature, submissive to His earthly parents and always about Your business and in Your house. Keep the families of Your Church abiding in Your Word, eager to be found among Your Word and Sacraments, and always treasuring Your divine wisdom and favor. *LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

LORD of the nations, Your eye is on all who fear You. Grant humility and integrity to rulers, sow love of one's neighbor among citizens, and faithfully bring forth justice according to Your Will and Word. *LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Gracious Father, at His Baptism Your Son voluntarily took on Himself all of our frailties and the results of our sinfulness. Give Your comfort to [Brenda B and] all who mourn. Extend Your healing hand to [Faith & Our Savior Prayers and to] all who need Your care. Assure them of Your promise that even when Your people walk through the fire, the flames will not consume them. Grant them faith to believe that they need not fear, for You are with them. *LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

Blessed Lord, You offer grace to Your people in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Assure us of our salvation through this wonderful gift, that we would faithfully receive the body and blood of our LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ. *LORD, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

LORD God, Heavenly Father, in mercy You have established the Christian home among us. We implore You, rule and direct our hearts to be good examples to children and those subject to us, that we may not offend them by word or deed but faithfully teach them to love Your Church and hear Your blessed Word. Give them Your Spirit and grace, that this seed may bring forth good fruit and our homelife may advance Your glory, honor and praise as well as our own improvement and welfare, giving offense to no one. Into Your hands, O LORD, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our LORD. **Amen.**

**EPIPHANY-1 Luke 2:41-52 WHO IS THIS & WHAT HE DOES 4 Us 1.11.26 F.OS**

**PRAYER** *Dear Heavenly Father, You planned for your Son, Our LORD, to come into this world as a Child in order to make our entire life holy. Show us today how Jesus kept the Third and Fourth commandments in our place. We thank you for all Jesus did in keeping the Law for us. We pray this in His Name. Amen.*

**EPIPHANY – INTRO.** The Sundays after Epiphany all have this theme in common, they **show forth or make manifest** Christ's glory as true God. Our Gospel today is a very important one especially for young children, as *it is the only account in the Bible about Jesus' Childhood.* Our text for this morning is one of my favorites in all of the Bible. Even as a child Jesus marvels the teachers in the Temple with His understanding and answers. It is an exciting text because here we see more clearly than in any other Jesus' work of **Active Obedience and fulfilling the Law for us** and in our place. So, today we consider: **JESUS' ACTIVE OBEDIENCE FOR US & IN OUR PLACE.**

**2 PARTS ACT. OBED.** Consider [two things]: 1. **Jesus' Active Obedience** in keeping the **3<sup>RD</sup>** and **4<sup>TH</sup>** Commandments. And second, 2. the **Comfort** found in the fact that Jesus kept these Commandments **for us.**

**NOT A DISOBEDIENT MISFIT** When we first glance at this text, we can come away with the wrong impression that Jesus was **NOT being obedient** in this only account of His Childhood recorded in Scripture. After all He remained behind in Jerusalem when His parents returned home after the Passover. Well, Jesus was **not some misfit, but rather a well adjusted Boy** who always did what He was told. He never got into trouble. His parents had full trust in Him because he never did anything that was bad. **How would you like to have Jesus for your Son?** That begins to explain why Mary and Joseph would go a whole day's journey without checking to make sure that Jesus was with them. They just supposed that He was with His friends and relatives in the group.

**...BUT STILL TROUBLING** But that night he was nowhere to be found. **Didn't He know how this would trouble His earthly Mom and Dad?** The parents had to return to Jerusalem searching for Him. They had traveled one day, returned the second day and found Him finally the third day. How their hearts must have ached on their return trip. Imagine the sharp words Mary and Joseph may have said to each other. Imagine what Mary was thinking. **Mary had lost her Son.** Did she think, *"Are we not fit as Christ's parents? Does God no longer want us to be Christ's parents because we have been negligent of His care? Is God judging us not worthy to raise the Christ Child?"* Such might be the thoughts that **Satan would tempt them with** on the return to Jerusalem. **Every parent can sympathize with Mary and Joseph here.** All they know is that their Son is lost. What could have happened? Mary and Joseph are **examples of cross-bearing and suffering.** As Christians we will experience suffering and the cross in this life.

**EMOTIONS RUNNING HIGH** At last they found Jesus in the Temple. **The emotions of relief and joy** but at the same time **frustration** that fill their hearts come out in Mary's words, *"Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have searched for You anxiously."* Jesus responds, *"Why is it that*

*you searched for Me? Didn't you know I must be about My **Father's** business?"*  
Was Jesus **smarting off** to His mother? Was he **being disrespectful**?

**LAW FOR MARY & JOSEPH** What did Jesus mean that *"He must be about His Father's business?"* **Mary and Joseph didn't understand this statement.** This shows that **Mary didn't know all things.** She can err. She did sin. Mary and Joseph had to **add wrongful judging to all of the pain and anxiety** they already suffered. Had they forgotten what the angels, the shepherds, the patriarch Simeon and others had said about Him? It is as if He said, *You should have known that even though I remained behind, I was not disobedient, but that I owe primary obedience to My Father in Heaven.*

**EXAMPLES FOR US** These examples are given to us in order that **we may learn from them to guard and keep us in times of temptations.** God may allow trials to come to us as parents. We must learn not to despair. This has not been written for the sake of the mother of Jesus, **but for OUR benefit**, so that by it **we** may be **taught** and **comforted**.

**EXAMPLE FOR PARENTS** Not only do we learn from Mary's example about the cross in life, **we also learn about parenting.** If Mary and Joseph had to raise the Holy Child carefully, how much more should **we recognize our calling in being Gods tools in the rearing of our not-so-perfect ... yes, SINFUL children!** Parents don't have the power to convert their children, but they can neglect them and feel the guilt of the loss of their souls. Jesus said, *"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."* **[Matthew 18:6].** So we learn to serve our LORD by caring for our children and family.

**PARENTS AS EXAMPLES** **We bring our children to the Means of Grace.** We see to it that they are Baptized. We read Bible stories to them, bring them to church, Sunday School, Catechism Class and set them a good example by being here with them teaching them a love for Gods Word by **showing our own love to hear Gods Word.** We're not interested in teaching them to obey rules, but to believe and be saved.

**[WHO HE IS] HUMILIATION** This account of Jesus in the Temple shows us the **mystery of the Person of Christ.** Jesus is true God and true Man. If Jesus is true God and knows all things, then why would He have to study and learn? The answer is that during Jesus' life on earth, **He set aside the full use of His Divine Power.** We call this Jesus' **State of Humiliation.** This is why He had to learn and study just like any other twelve-year-old has to learn and study. The difference is that **He studied perfectly.** He owed obedience above all to God. In saying that He must be about his Fathers business, he was saying to Mary, *"I am your Son; but more, I am the Son of My Father Who is in Heaven."*

**MARVEL & AMAZED** And all of the **people who heard Jesus marveled and were amazed.** Here Jesus manifested His glory. He allowed a "peak behind the curtain" that covered **His Divine Nature.** Here we see **Jesus as True God,** (another) Theme of Epiphany. Imagine a student learning perfectly. Imagine the questions he asked. A teacher needs to be prepared and

Jesus was questioning the understanding of the OT prophesies of these teachers in the temple. Jesus was keeping the Third Commandment **by hearing and learning Gods Word.** Here was Jesus in the Temple learning God's Word. He kept the Fourth Commandment by going home with His parents and being subject to them. **Jesus always obeyed His parents.** Let's also consider the **comfort of this message.**

**[LAW:] JESUS' E.G.** **Are we like the holy Christ child? Do we hear Gods word with joy?** ... You may have seen the TV commercial about making **New Year's Resolutions.** One person is going to walk the stairs to work every morning, another is going to do sit-ups every morning and then the resolutions get laughed away. The commercial encourages you to make a resolution that you can keep **to eat their cereal. The Gospel will make an improvement in your life.** When you are tempted to keep away from Worship, **remember what Jesus did as a Twelve-year-old.** When you are questioning if you will come to Worship, **remember what Jesus did.** Jesus is an Example for us, but that is **not** comforting for us. Because we can never live up to Jesus' example. The comfort is in the fact that Jesus kept the Commandments **for us.**

**TRUE COMFORT-ENTIRE LIFE** So we find true comfort in the fact that **Jesus sanctified our entire life.** Even from childhood Jesus was keeping the Commandments for us. Jesus made these common deeds holy. He washed the dishes, He helped with chores around the house, and He swept the floor in His father's carpenter shop. Even as a little **Child Jesus was keeping the 3<sup>RD</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> Commandments FOR US.** He sanctified our **entire life** by being born, by being a Child, then a Pre-Teen, a Teen, and finally growing up.

**[GOSPEL:] REASON HE CAME** He also knew the reason He came into this world. **He was about His Father's "Business."** **[His PASS.OBED.]** He came to **suffer and die to reconcile the world** with the Father. What a wonderful message that Jesus was fulfilling the Law! The comfort is He did this **FOR US.**

**FIND HIM WHERE HE IS** All of this happened for our sakes to strengthen our faith, so that we might come to know Jesus correctly. He is more than an Example. He is also **True God and our Redeemer.** We find great comfort and consolation in our sorrow and trials. We find Jesus in **His Holy Word.** He is present **in the Holy Scriptures and in His Sacraments.** So there is no need to run or search anywhere else. Seek Christ where He is found. We find no comfort in time of death, sorrow, or crisis except in anything but Gods Word alone. Follow the example of **Mary and keep and "ponder all of these things in YOUR heart."**

**[TAKE-HOME] COMFORT** Jesus kept the 3<sup>RD</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> Commandments perfectly from the time he was a little Child. His appearance in the Temple **manifested His glory** causing the people to marvel at His understanding. He then went with His parents and was subject to them. The comfort in all of this is that He did it **not only for an example for us, but also as our SUBSTITUTE.** Jesus kept the 3<sup>RD</sup> and 4<sup>TH</sup> Commandments **for us** and **in our place.** If your heart is troubled that you haven't always been glad to hear Gods Word, or that you haven't done all that you could have done for your parents, take comfort in the fact that Jesus kept these Commandments **FOR YOU! IJ'N, Amen. SDG**