

1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Col. 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

### **Notes on the Old Testament Lesson**

Note the parallels between the description of the boy Samuel in this passage and the descriptions of John (Luke 1:80) and of Jesus (Luke 2:52) in their youth.

### **Notes on the Gospel Lesson**

In the first century, as in our own day, observant Jews are called to be in Jerusalem for Passover if at all possible. The reality, both in Jesus' day and today, is that most people cannot afford to go every year and instead save up, sometimes for years, to make the journey. It was apparently on such a journey that Jesus and his family made the journey described in this scripture passage.

The people from Nazareth would have travelled together in extended families so it is not at all remarkable that it was three days before Mary and Joseph were aware of Jesus' absence. It is perhaps more surprising that they returned to Jerusalem without the rest of their contingent.

Finding Jesus in the Temple was in one sense not surprising. Any Jew could ask questions of any rabbi (or teacher) at any time. Indeed, this is often how rabbis teach today. When Jesus returned to the Temple during his ministry, he would teach in the same method.

The Temple in Jerusalem was almost never referred to by that name. Instead it was called "the house of the Lord" (see Psalm 23:6, Psalm 122:1, and others). Jesus' use of the term "my Father's house" would not have been at all remarkable to those who heard it.