



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
CANTERBURY

Readings and Psalms for  
Morning Prayer Services  
according to  
The Anglican Prayer book  
of Australia  
21-27 December 2020

## Monday 21 December

### Psalm 34

- 1 I will bless the Lord continually:  
his praise shall be always in my mouth.
- 2 Let my soul boast of the Lord:  
the humble shall hear it and rejoice.
- 3 O praise the Lord with me:  
let us exalt his name together.
- 4 For I sought the Lord's help and he answered:  
and he freed me from all my fears.
- 5 Look towards him and be bright with joy:  
your faces shall not be ashamed.
- 6 Here is a wretch who cried, and the Lord heard me:  
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps round those who fear him:  
and delivers them in their need.
- 8 O taste and see that the Lord is good:  
happy are they that hide in him!
- 9 Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones:  
for those who fear him never lack.
- 10 Lions may suffer want and go hungry:  
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing good.
- 11 Come, my children, listen to me:  
and I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12 Which of you relishes life:  
wants time to enjoy good things?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil:  
and your lips from telling lies.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good:  
seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of God are on the righteous:  
and his ears towards their cry.
- 16 The Lord sets his face against wrongdoers:  
to root out their memory from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry; the Lord hears it:  
and frees them from all their afflictions.
- 18 The Lord is close to those who are broken-hearted:  
and the crushed in spirit he saves.
- 19 The trials of the righteous are many:  
but our God delivers us from them all.
- 20 He guards all our bones:  
so that not one is broken.
- 21 Evil will slay the wicked:  
and those who hate the righteous will be destroyed.
- 22 The Lord ransoms the lives of his servants:  
and none who hide in him will be destroyed.

## **1 Peter 1.3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## Tuesday 22 December

### Psalm 118.1-18

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:  
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim:  
that his mercy endures for ever.
- 3 Let the house of Aaron proclaim:  
that his mercy endures for ever.
- 4 Let those who fear the Lord proclaim:  
that his mercy endures for ever.
- 5 In my danger I called to the Lord:  
he answered and set me free.
- 6 The Lord is on my side, I shall not fear:  
what can flesh and blood do to me?
- 7 The Lord is at my side as my helper:  
I shall see the downfall of my enemies.
- 8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord:  
than to trust to flesh and blood:
- 9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord:  
than to put your trust in princes.
- 10 All the nations surrounded me:  
but in the name of the Lord I drove them back.
- 11 They surrounded, they surrounded me on every side:  
but in the name of the Lord I drove them back.
- 12 They swarmed about me like bees,  
they blazed like fire among the thorns:  
in the name of the Lord I drove them back.
- 13 I was pressed so hard that I almost fell:  
but the Lord was my helper.
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song:  
and has become my salvation.
- 15 The sounds of joy and deliverance:  
are in the tents of the righteous.
- 16 The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:  
the right hand of the Lord raises up.
- 17 I shall not die but live:  
and proclaim the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has disciplined me hard:  
but he has not given me over to death.

## **Mark 12.41-13.13**

<sup>12.41</sup> He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup> Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup> For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.' <sup>13.1</sup> As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' <sup>2</sup> Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.' <sup>3</sup> When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs. <sup>9</sup> 'As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. <sup>10</sup> And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. <sup>11</sup> When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. <sup>12</sup> Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; <sup>13</sup> and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

## Wednesday 23 December

### Psalms 124; 125; 126

#### 124

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side,  
now may Israel say:  
if the Lord had not been on our side,  
when our enemies rose against us,
- 2 Then they would have swallowed us alive:  
when their anger was kindled against us.
- 3 Then the waters would have overwhelmed us,  
and the torrent gone over us:  
the raging waters would have gone clean over us.
- 4 But praised be the Lord:  
who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.
- 5 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:  
the snare is broken, and we have gone free.
- 6 Our help is in the name of the Lord:  
who has made heaven and earth.

#### 125

- 1 Those who put their trust in the Lord  
shall be as Mount Zion:  
which cannot be shaken, but endures for ever.
- 2 As the mountains stand about Jerusalem,  
so stands the Lord about his people:  
from this time forward for evermore.
- 3 For the sceptre of wickedness shall have no sway  
over the land apportioned to the righteous:  
lest the righteous set their hands to do evil.
- 4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good:  
to those that are upright in heart.
- 5 As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,  
let the Lord lead them away with the evildoers:  
and in Israel let there be peace.

#### 126

- 1 When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion:  
then were we like those restored to life.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter:  
and our tongue with singing.
- 3 Then said they among the heathen:  
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 Truly the Lord has done great things for us:  
and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:  
as the streams return to the dry south.
- 6 Those who sow in tears:  
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 They that go out weeping, bearing the seed:  
shall come again in gladness,  
bringing their sheaves with them.

## Mark 13.14-37

<sup>14</sup> 'But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains;

<sup>15</sup> someone on the housetop must not go down or enter the house to take anything away;

<sup>16</sup> someone in the field must not turn back to get a coat.

<sup>17</sup> Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days!

<sup>18</sup> Pray that it may not be in winter.

<sup>19</sup> For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, no, and never will be.

<sup>20</sup> And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days.

<sup>21</sup> And if anyone says to you at that time, "Look! Here is the Messiah!" or "Look! There he is!"—do not believe it.

<sup>22</sup> False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

<sup>23</sup> But be alert; I have already told you everything.

<sup>24</sup> 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

<sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory.

<sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup> 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

<sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

<sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

<sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

<sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

<sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

<sup>35</sup> Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,

<sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

<sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

## Thursday 24 December

### Psalms 130; 131; 133

#### 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord:  
Lord, hear my voice;
- 2 O let your ears consider well:  
the voice of my supplication.
- 3 If you, Lord, should note what we do wrong:  
who then, O Lord, could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you:  
so that you shall be feared.
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him:  
and in his word is my hope.
- 6 My soul looks for the Lord:  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more, I say, than watchmen for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy:  
and with him is ample redemption.
- 8 He will redeem Israel:  
from the multitude of their sins.

#### 131

- 1 O Lord, my heart is not proud:  
nor are my eyes haughty.
- 2 I do not busy myself in great matters:  
or in things too wonderful for me.
- 3 But I have calmed and quieted my soul  
like a weaned child upon its mother's breast:  
like a child on its mother's breast is my soul within me.
- 4 O Israel, trust in the Lord:  
from this time forward and for ever.

#### 133

- 1 Behold how good and how lovely it is:  
when families live together in unity.
- 2 It is fragrant as oil upon the head,  
that runs down over the beard:  
fragrant as oil upon the beard of Aaron,  
that ran down over the collar of his robe.
- 3 It is like a dew of Hermon:  
like the dew that falls upon the hill of Zion.
- 4 For there the Lord has commanded his blessing:  
which is life for evermore.



### **Galatians 3.23-4.7**

<sup>3.23</sup> Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup> As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. <sup>4.1</sup> My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; <sup>2</sup> but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. <sup>3</sup> So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## Friday 25 December

### Psalm 132.10-18

- 10 The Lord has sworn to David:  
    an oath which he will not break;
- 11 'One who is the fruit of your body:  
    I will set upon your throne.
- 12 'If your children will keep my covenant  
    and the commands which I teach them:  
    their children also shall sit upon your throne for ever.'
- 13 For the Lord has chosen Zion for himself:  
    he has desired it for his habitation.
- 14 'This shall be my resting-place for ever:  
    here will I dwell, for my delight is in her.
- 15 'I will bless her provisions with abundance:  
    I will satisfy her poor with bread.
- 16 'I will clothe her priests with salvation:  
    and her faithful ones shall shout for joy.
- 17 'There will I make a horn to sprout  
    for the family of David:  
    I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
- 18 'As for his enemies, I will cover them with shame:  
    but upon his head shall his crown be bright.'

## Matthew 1.18-2.6

<sup>1.18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,

<sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

<sup>2.1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

<sup>2</sup> asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

<sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

## Saturday 26 December

### Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord:  
Lord, hear my voice;
- 2 O let your ears consider well:  
the voice of my supplication.
- 3 If you, Lord, should note what we do wrong:  
who then, O Lord, could stand?
- 4 But there is forgiveness with you:  
so that you shall be feared.
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him:  
and in his word is my hope.
- 6 My soul looks for the Lord:  
more than watchmen for the morning,  
more, I say, than watchmen for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy:  
and with him is ample redemption.
- 8 He will redeem Israel:  
from the multitude of their sins.

### Acts 6.1-7; 7.1-49

<sup>6.1</sup> Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food.

<sup>2</sup> And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait at tables.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task,

<sup>4</sup> while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.'

<sup>5</sup> What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

<sup>6</sup> They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>7</sup> The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

<sup>7.1</sup> Then the high priest asked him, 'Are these things so?'

<sup>2</sup> And Stephen replied: 'Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,

<sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Leave your country and your relatives and go to the land that I will show you."

<sup>4</sup> Then he left the country of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After his father died, God had him move from there to this country in which you are now living.

<sup>5</sup> He did not give him any of it as a heritage, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him as his possession and to his descendants after him, even though he had no child.

<sup>6</sup> And God spoke in these terms, that his descendants would be resident aliens in a country belonging to others, who would enslave them and maltreat them for four hundred years.

<sup>7</sup> “But I will judge the nation that they serve,” said God, “and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.”

<sup>8</sup> Then he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

<sup>9</sup> ‘The patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him,  
<sup>10</sup> and rescued him from all his afflictions, and enabled him to win favour and to show wisdom when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him ruler over Egypt and over all his household.

<sup>11</sup> Now there came a famine throughout Egypt and Canaan, and great suffering, and our ancestors could find no food.

<sup>12</sup> But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our ancestors there on their first visit.

<sup>13</sup> On the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph’s family became known to Pharaoh.

<sup>14</sup> Then Joseph sent and invited his father Jacob and all his relatives to come to him, seventy-five in all;

<sup>15</sup> so Jacob went down to Egypt. He himself died there as well as our ancestors,

<sup>16</sup> and their bodies were brought back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Hamor in Shechem.

<sup>17</sup> ‘But as the time drew near for the fulfilment of the promise that God had made to Abraham, our people in Egypt increased and multiplied

<sup>18</sup> until another king who had not known Joseph ruled over Egypt.

<sup>19</sup> He dealt craftily with our race and forced our ancestors to abandon their infants so that they would die.

<sup>20</sup> At this time Moses was born, and he was beautiful before God. For three months he was brought up in his father’s house;

<sup>21</sup> and when he was abandoned, Pharaoh’s daughter adopted him and brought him up as her own son.

<sup>22</sup> So Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his words and deeds.

<sup>23</sup> ‘When he was forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his relatives, the Israelites.

<sup>24</sup> When he saw one of them being wronged, he defended the oppressed man and avenged him by striking down the Egyptian.

<sup>25</sup> He supposed that his kinsfolk would understand that God through him was rescuing them, but they did not understand.

<sup>26</sup> The next day he came to some of them as they were quarrelling and tried to reconcile them, saying, “Men, you are brothers; why do you wrong each other?”

<sup>27</sup> But the man who was wronging his neighbour pushed Moses aside, saying, “Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?”

<sup>28</sup> Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?”

<sup>29</sup> When he heard this, Moses fled and became a resident alien in the land of Midian. There he became the father of two sons.

<sup>30</sup> ‘Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in the flame of a burning bush.

<sup>31</sup> When Moses saw it, he was amazed at the sight; and as he approached to look, there came the voice of the Lord:

<sup>32</sup> “I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Moses began to tremble and did not dare to look.

<sup>33</sup> Then the Lord said to him, "Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.

<sup>34</sup> I have surely seen the mistreatment of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their groaning, and I have come down to rescue them. Come now, I will send you to Egypt."

<sup>35</sup> 'It was this Moses whom they rejected when they said, "Who made you a ruler and a judge?" and whom God now sent as both ruler and liberator through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

<sup>36</sup> He led them out, having performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in the wilderness for forty years.

<sup>37</sup> This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, "God will raise up a prophet for you from your own people as he raised me up."

<sup>38</sup> He is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness with the angel who spoke to him at Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living oracles to give to us.

<sup>39</sup> Our ancestors were unwilling to obey him; instead, they pushed him aside, and in their hearts they turned back to Egypt,

<sup>40</sup> saying to Aaron, "Make gods for us who will lead the way for us; as for this Moses who led us out from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him."

<sup>41</sup> At that time they made a calf, offered a sacrifice to the idol, and revelled in the works of their hands.

<sup>42</sup> But God turned away from them and handed them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets:

"Did you offer to me slain victims and sacrifices  
for forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?

<sup>43</sup> No; you took along the tent of Moloch,  
and the star of your god Rephan,  
the images that you made to worship;

so I will remove you beyond Babylon."

<sup>44</sup> 'Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen.

<sup>45</sup> Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David,

<sup>46</sup> who found favour with God and asked that he might find a dwelling-place for the house of Jacob.

<sup>47</sup> But it was Solomon who built a house for him.

<sup>48</sup> Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands; as the prophet says,

<sup>49</sup> "Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,  
or what is the place of my rest?

## Sunday 27 December

Song of Hannah

My heart exults in the Lord:  
my strength is exalted in my God.

My mouth derides my enemies:  
because I rejoice in your salvation.

There is no Holy One like you, O Lord:  
nor any Rock like you, our God.

For you are a God of knowledge:  
and by you our actions are weighed.

The bows of the mighty are broken:  
but the feeble gird on strength.

Those who were full now search for bread:  
but those who were hungry are well fed.

The barren woman has borne sevenfold:  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

Both the poor and the rich are of your making:  
you bring low and you also exalt.

You raise up the poor from the dust:  
and lift the needy from the ash heap.

You make them sit with the rulers:  
and inherit a place of honour.

For the pillars of the earth are yours:  
and on them you have set the world.

## **Luke 2.41-52**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup> He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.