DECEMBER 26, 2021

**Readings in Worship hymnal # 1019**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Lk 2:16**
The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**READING I:**
**Sir 3:2-6, 12-14**
Kindness and respect for parents is urged.
**OR**
**1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28**
Hannah dedicates her son, Samuel, to the Lord.

**READING II:**
**Col 3:12-21**
What is expected of the chosen of God.
**OR**
**1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24**
We are children of God.

**GOSPEL: Lk 2:41-52**
To some extent, the stories of Jesus’ birth and infancy are patterned on the stories of the prophet Samuel and his mother, Hannah. Mary’s canticle, for example (Luke 1:46-55) is based on the canticle of Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-10).
It is fitting, therefore, that the story of Samuel’s presentation to Eli at the Shiloh sanctuary should be the first reading on the day when we also read of Jesus’ self-revelation at the Jerusalem Temple.
The message of the day, in a sense,
is captured in the second reading:
We know that we are already God’s children. Can you imagine what there is yet to be revealed?

**Psalm Response:**
Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
(R) Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.
This song celebrates Zion as the place where God’s dwelling is found. It is also a pilgrimage song for those going to Jerusalem.

**Communion Antiphon:** Bar 3:38
Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.