

2nd Sunday after Christmas
“About His Father’s business for us!”
Luke 2:45-50
January 4, 2026
Rev. Ed Weber

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 2nd Sunday after Christmas is from our Gospel reading, Luke 2:45-50.

“45 So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. 46 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. 48 So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.” 49 And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?” 50 But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.”

So far the text:

On Tuesday, we celebrate the day of Epiphany, January 6. It is the day that the wise men from the East ended their search for Jesus in Bethlehem, having been guided by God with His star. And they worshipped Him, Immanuel, God with us, as the prophet Isaiah had foretold.

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

And they gave God, with us in the flesh, the gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

The shepherds found the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling cloths. The wisemen found Him. Herod tried to find Him as he feigned worship, but was prevented by God.

And now at the age of 12, another search party was frantically looking for the One called Immanuel, God with us. He’s with us, but where? Asked His mother and father to all who were travelling with them back home from Jerusalem.

For three days they looked, not having the help of a GPS cell phone or satellite imagery to track Him like our military used to track an indicted Venezuelan president Maduro, indicted by our State Department of Justice for narco-terrorism, drug trafficking, and corruption.

But Jesus wasn't trying to hide from His parents. No technology was needed to find Immanuel then or now. Because Jesus, God with us, is with us where He always is found, in His Father's house, doing His Father's business. Most importantly, Jesus was and is doing His Father's business for us!

Mary and Joseph didn't understand this statement that Jesus spoke to them. We should not criticize them for their distraught and panicked reaction. Are we any different when the unexpected happens to us and we feel overwhelmed with a lack of understanding as to why this is happening? Where is Immanuel, God with us, is our fervent prayer?

Jesus had so humbled Himself as a child that His divinity, though well-known to His parents from His birth, was not yet apparent to them. Jesus wasn't performing miracles, like bringing clay birds to life, as the Apocryphal Gospel Thomas portrays.

No, as our Gospel reading tells us, Jesus grew up normally, "**And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**"

Without sin, of course, in perfect favor with God and men. Jesus was not sinning to be in His Father's house asking questions to the teachers and giving answers and understanding to the amazement of all.

And when His parents told Him to come with them, He obediently submitted Himself to them. Yes, Jesus submitted Himself. To submit oneself to those that God has placed over us is a good and God pleasing work that grows us in God's favor.

Unfortunately, we have done many things in our lives that are not done with godly understanding and His favor. And for this reason we come to His house again and again seeking Him and His mercy and forgiveness.

And this is where Immanuel, God with us, is found...in His gracious Word and Sacraments. For Christ is about His Father's business when He speaks to us through His Word and through it brings us to our Father. This is what Jesus was speaking of to the teachers in the temple – God's Word which is His salvation for us through Immanuel!

This is the Father's business which Jesus at 12 years old was so keenly aware of. The Father's business, the Father's will is to redeem the world through His Son.

This is what our epistle reading from Ephesians 1 so beautifully tells us:

“7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will”

This is the answer, the only answer for this fallen world – Jesus' business of redeeming the world from sin by His shed blood on the cross and His resurrection. Where is Jesus? The women asked. He's not here in this tomb. He's risen just like He said He would. You'll find Him in Galilee. Out of great love, Jesus did the searching and found the women, the frightened disciples and He has found us through His saving Word.

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

God has given you the answer personally by giving you faith to believe in Him and sealing your faith through your baptism. Yes, Jesus has been about His Father's business in you!

Listen once again as Jesus speaks to you through His Word in Ephesians:

“13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

With Mary we ponder these answers to our soul's salvation in our hearts. With astonishment we are continually amazed at the great love our Savior has for us! He willingly placed Himself under the law to free us from its condemnation! That's the business He was about as He came in the flesh for us.

And Jesus is about His merciful and gracious business in His house as He gives us His very body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine for our forgiveness. Immanuel, God is with us through these most humble elements.

So we begin this new year with a clear understanding of God's good will towards us. And like Jesus we willingly submit our will to His as His servants.

For God's will is that all would come to the knowledge of the truth... that all would have the right understanding of Jesus and trust in Him as one's Savior.

Matt 13:23

As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

We pray that the Holy Spirit would open unbelievers' minds to understand His great love for all people.

May God bless our service to Him in this new year and always as we go about our Father's business of proclaiming His Son, the Savior of the world. And may God give much astonishment and joy to people's hearts through the Good News of His Gospel in Jesus!

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)