

Sunday, January 4, 2026
Christmas 2A
Luke 2:40-52

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

My friends,

Merry Christmas!

My all-time favourite Christmas movie is Home Alone.

I can't help it.

It just is.

In Home Alone,

The McAllister family

accidentally leaves their youngest son behind at Christmas.

In the mad dash to get to the airport on time,

they forgot Kevin in the attic bedroom.

They don't realize he's missing

until they're almost in France.

His parents frantically

begin looking for ways to get back to him.

Meanwhile, home alone,

Kevin deals

with burglars,

grocery shopping,

laundry

and cooking all by himself.

He even manages to clean up before his family gets back.

In today's Holy Gospel,

The parents of Jesus realize that they have left Him behind.

They become frantic and begin looking for Him.

Only, Jesus wasn't lost.

He remained behind for a purpose.

Jesus was in His "*Father's House*."

And even though it was '*necessary*' for Jesus to be there,
 He still submits to His earthly parents.
 He obediently returns with them to Nazareth.

Today, we consider what Jesus' obedience means for us.
 We'll see how:
 Christ's perfect obedience fulfills the Law for us
 and leaves us an example of humble obedience.

1.

My friends,

We need Christ's obedience.
 For we are all disobedient children of Adam.
 The prophet Isaiah testifies,
*"We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
 each of us has turned to his own way;
 and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."* (Isaiah 53:6)
 And the Psalmist confesses:
*"Everyone has turned away,
 they have together become corrupt;
 there is no one who does good, not even one."* (Psalm 53:3)

Adam and Eve did not listen to their loving Creator.
 Instead, they listened to the deceiver.
 They listened to the serpent.
 The serpent tempted them to eat the forbidden fruit.
 They disregarded God's command.
 They ate from the tree from which God had clearly warned:
"When you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:17)

That disobedience we have inherited.

And in that disobedience, we are all complicit.

For we have all wilfully repeated this scene over and over again in our own lives.

We often disregard the good commands God has given us.

Even though we know that *"the wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23)

And that *"that those who live like this*

will not inherit the kingdom of God." (Galatians 5:21)

Our sinful nature, inherited from Adam,

shows itself in our daily lives and callings.

Instead of using God's name to pray and give thanks,

people are more inclined to use His name to curse and lie.

Instead of hearing the Word of God and learning it with gladness, we do as we please on Sunday mornings more often than not.

Instead of honouring our parents and other authorities,

we grumble against their authority

and often do what they ask only grudgingly.

All of Adam's descendants,

therefore, share in Adam's condemnation and judgment.

Death is the result and consequence of our disobedience.

(Romans 5:12)

"In Adam all die" (1 Corinthians 15:22)

Whoever does not repent of their disobedience will die.

They will die physically.

They will die spiritually.

They will experience eternal suffering and torment in hell.

Therefore, we should daily repent of this and all sins.

We should confess that we are "by nature sinful and unclean."

And beg God to be merciful to us.

"I have strayed like a lost sheep.

Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands."

(Psalm 119:176.)

2.

My friends,

God has sought us.

And He has shown us mercy in Jesus.

He gave us His perfectly obedient Son.

He gave us His Son, who

*"emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men."* (Philippians 2:7).

This is the whole point of Christmas.

The *"Word became flesh"* – our own flesh.

"And dwelt among us" (John 1:14).

He did this so that He could obey God's Law
in place of sinful humanity.

As St. Paul says in Galatians,

"When the fullness of time had come,

*God sent forth His Son, born of woman,
born under the law,*

to redeem those who were under the law,

so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4–5.)

Where we have failed to obey our Heavenly Father,
we need Him to provide someone to do it for us.

The Son of God obeyed His Father's will.

Twelve-year-old Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem.

Soon enough, Mary and Joseph become frantic
until they find Him in the temple.

"And his mother said to Him,

'Son, why have you treated us so?

Behold, your father and I

have been searching for you in great distress." (Luke 2:48b)

Despite Mary thinking He had treated them badly,
there was no disobedience.

Jesus was in His Father's house according to divine necessity.

"And He said to them,

'Why were you looking for Me?

Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?'" (Luke 2:49)

(The word *"must"* means *"it is necessary that."*)

But then, even though He is God Himself, Jesus submits.

Jesus submitted to the authority of His earthly parents.
He fulfilled the requirements of the Fourth Commandment.
*"And He went down with them and came to Nazareth
and was submissive to them.*

And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart." (Luke 2:51.)

Later, Jesus, the obedient Son of God, came to the Jordan River.

He submitted to a Baptism of repentance for us.
He fully and completely identified with us sinners.

And finally, Jesus came obediently to Gethsemane and Calvary.

The always obedient Son suffered an agonizing death.
He drank the cup of His Father's wrath for us.

All of this, He did for us.

Jesus did it for you.
All of His perfect keeping of the Law He did for you.
His obedience unto death, Jesus did for you.

3.

My friends,

*"God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law,
to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons."*

By faith in Him,
Adam's children are reborn as God's children in Jesus Christ.
So then, you also are to live as obedient sons in Christ Jesus.

Through Christ's active obedience, our disobedience is forgiven.

*"In Him we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of sins,
in accordance with the riches of God's grace"* (Ephesians 1:7)

Through Holy Baptism, you are adopted as sons of God in Jesus Christ

"according to the purpose of His will." (Ephesians 1:5)

Through Christ,
 you stand before God our Father as righteous and obedient sons.
 You are covered by the blanket
 of Christ's perfect righteousness and obedience.

You are reborn sons of God.
 You are adopted through Jesus in Holy Baptism.
 In those waters, you have put off the old Adam.
 The old sinful self is washed away and drowned.
 His disobedience is cleaned away.
 And now you wear Christ.

With God's help, we follow Christ's humble example.
 We begin to keep His Word and obey His commands.

Once, we feared, loved, and trusted other things.
 Now, we begin in faith
 to fear, love, and trust in God above all things.
 We are learning to trust in Him as our only hope and refuge.

We begin to resist the temptation to use God's holy name
 to curse, swear, lie, and deceive.
 Instead, we use His name
 to call upon Him in every trouble, 'pray, praise, and give thanks.'

We fight and struggle against our natural inclination
 to despise preaching and God's Word.
 Instead, with the help of the Holy Spirit,
 we begin to 'hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.'
 The Spirit gives us new desires and new motivation.

We resist the urge to talk back to our parents and other authorities.
 Instead, we strive to earnestly listen to them.
 We endeavour to honour them, serve and obey them.
 Not grudgingly or fearing punishment,
 but from a joyful, loving heart.

We do all this out of love for God.

We don't obey from fear or punishment.

We obey joyfully and gladly.

Why?

Because Christ's perfect obedience has been credited to us.

*

My friends,

We were under God's condemnation and judgment.

This was because of our disobedience.

Disobedience that we inherited from Adam.

But Christ's active obedience won us a new inheritance.

We have inherited His faithful completion of His Father's will.

He did it for you.

God counts you as righteous and obedient through faith in Jesus.

So let us give thanks to God for sending His beloved Son to fulfill the Law for us.

As reborn Sons of God, let us strive to follow His example.

Your God has not left you home alone.

He has come to you with the gift of His obedient Son.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, amen.