

St. Luke 2:49b

“Did you not know that I must be in
My Father’s house?”



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2026

Holy Communion 11:00 am

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (ELW) No. 279

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy.....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray,

C: Almighty and everlasting God, direct our actions according to Your good pleasure, that in the name of Your beloved Son, we might be made to abound in good works. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:4-15

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 119:97-103

⁹⁷ Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

⁹⁸ **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.**

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰ **I understand more than the aged, for I keep Your precepts.**

¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word.

¹⁰² **I do not turn aside from Your rules, for You have taught me.**

¹⁰³ How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

* The Gospel

Luke 2:40-52

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (*sung after announcement of the Gospel*)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (*sung after conclusion of the Gospel*)

Sermon

Lay Leader Matthew Mazzotti

*The Hymn of the Day

Children of the Heavenly Father

(ELW) No. 781

*The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 27

*The Great Thanksgiving

(ELW) page 144

*The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God

(ELW) page 146

The Distribution

Communion Hymn

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(ELW) No. 502

Prayer/Blessing

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

What Child Is This

(ELW) No. 296

*The Dismissal (*response*)

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



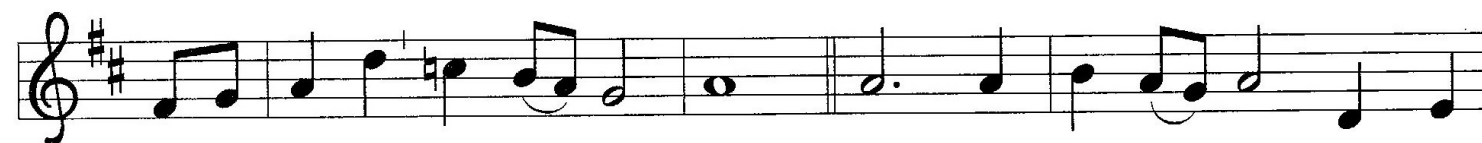
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain

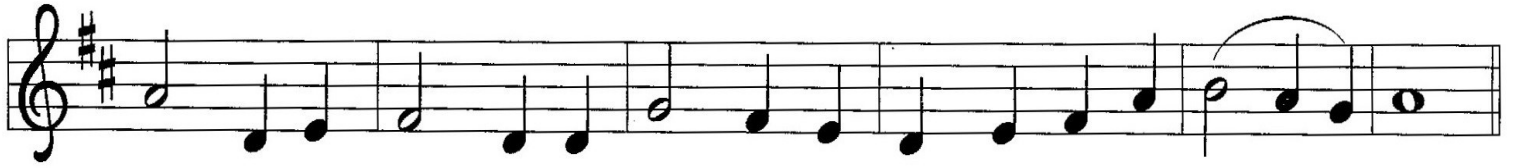
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

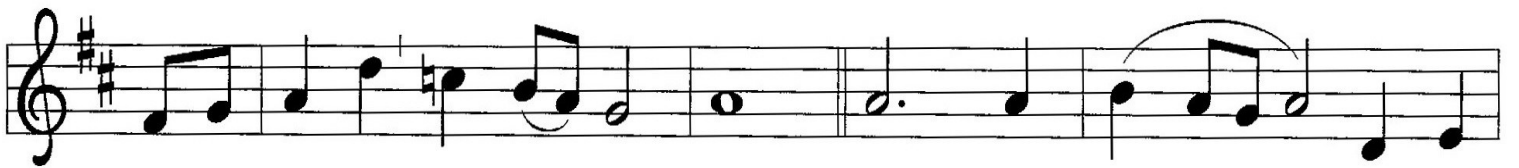


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

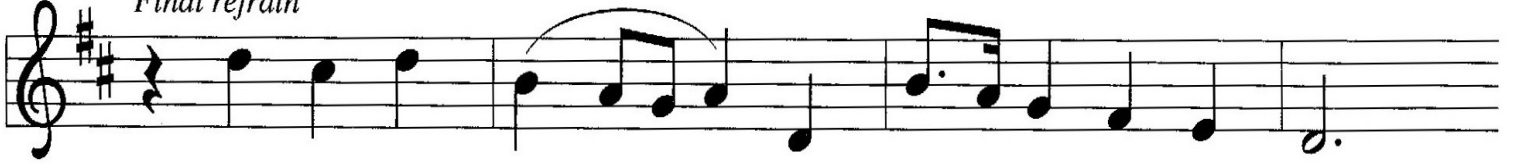


al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



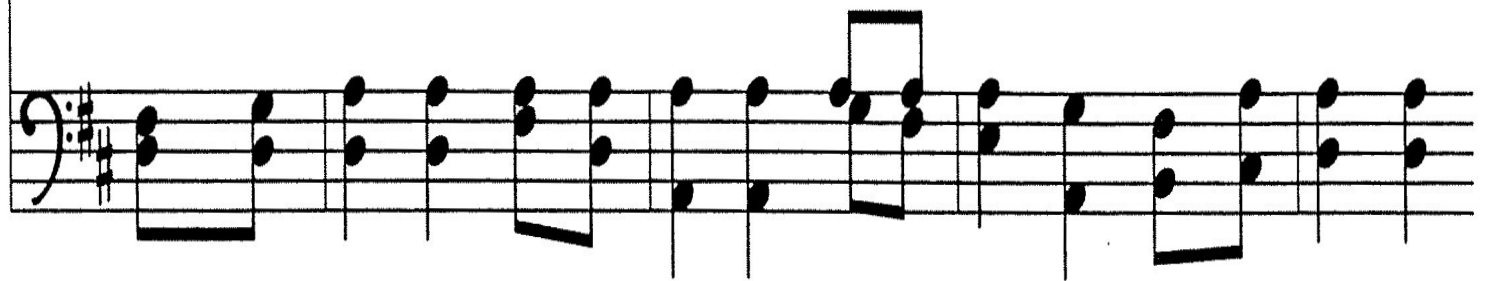
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Children of the Heavenly Father

781



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first system of musical notation for 'The Communion'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -'.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation. The melody continues from the first system. The lyrics are 'new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -'.

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are 'way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly'.

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

The fourth system of musical notation. The melody continues. The lyrics are 'Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of'.

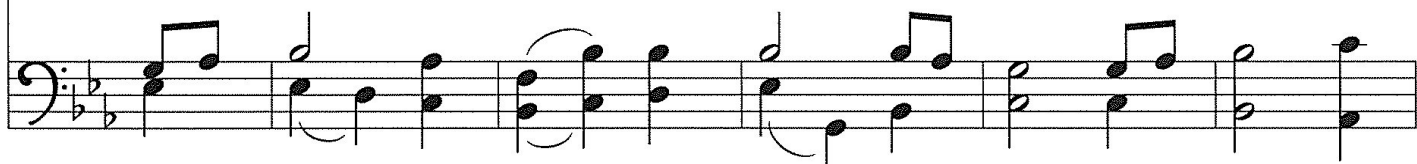
thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth and final system of musical notation on this page. The melody concludes with a final cadence. The lyrics are 'thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.'

The King of Love My Shepherd Is



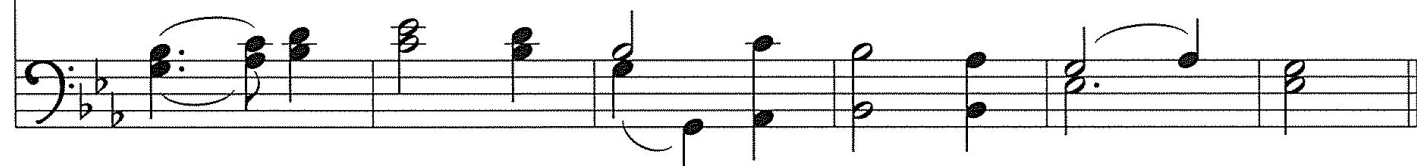
1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

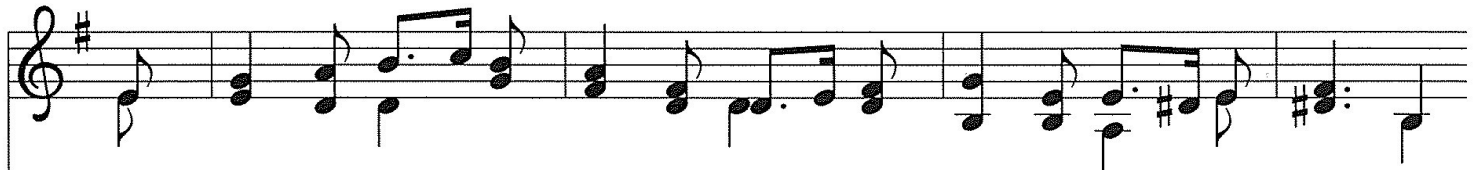


I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.



5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

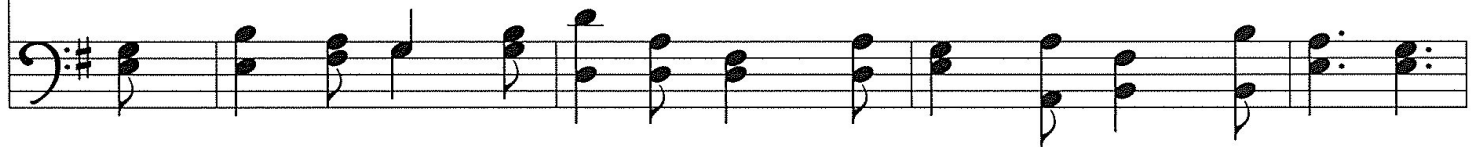
6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.



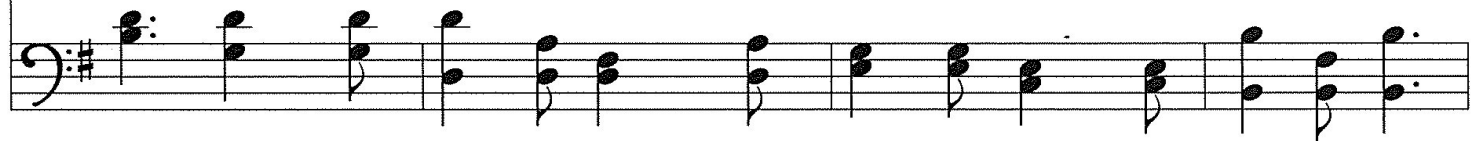
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



First Lutheran Church

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724-225-4040

e-mail: secretary@flcwash.church

Online services posted weekly on website:

<https://firstlutheranwashington.church/>

The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

724-705-4050

revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Mark Black, Matthew Mazzotti, Lutheran Lay Worship Leaders

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God.

The Lay Reader is Kimberly Grewe.

.Acolytes are Heidi and Denico Walsh.

Counters/Greeters today are L. Sten and R. Williams.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs for infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

The Flower Chart for 2026 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2026. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2026. Please sign up.

Please pray for those in need of healing: Isaac Christian, Lindsay Mankey, Amy Verderber, Lou Mayne, Greg Mason, Ed Dupas, Pat Dupas, Carol Cancelmi, Amanda Laib, Sandy Hebrank, Richard Hager, Judd Lacko, Sandy Mannsman, Ian, Isaiah, Aleashia, Sharon, Tammy, Edelgard, Wolfgang, Klaus & Mel, Bernadette, Bob and Anneleise Christian, Carl Group, Shari Kienzel, Susan Westott, Amber Falosk, Appolos Yocca, Brenda Tennant, Darlene Kosak, Gary Conti, June Gosnell, Sally Hazlett, Erin Reel, Stacy Carroll, R. J. Ramone, Debbie Beighley, Kenny and Josh, and David.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Sober House Living

724-228-2203

Turning Point at Washington

Coffee Hour following service.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Second Sunday after Christmas – January 4, 2026

“⁴⁹And {Jesus} said to {Mary and Joseph}, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And {Jesus} went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”

- Luke 2:49 – 52 -

I am the oldest of three kids in my family, and I have vivid memories of going to JC Penney with my mom and younger sister. I was about 7 or 8; my sister was 3 or 4. My sister loved to quietly disappear in the middle of a clothes rack. Mom would frantically look for her throughout the clothing section we were in, and eventually, Mom would let a sales associate know that my sister was missing. The entire department store would go on lock-down until my sister was found. Every time this happened, she was safely tucked away in the middle of a rack. For her, it was a game. For my mom, it was her worst nightmare.

About eight months after my husband and I, along with our three kids, moved from South Dakota to Ohio, I had a similar experience with my youngest daughter. My older daughter was involved in the Bidy Cheer. We were at a home Bidy Football game on a Sunday afternoon. I got distracted talking to another parent. When I turned around, my daughter Antonia was gone. Suddenly, a hundred people felt like a sea of millions. I felt disoriented and thrown into an ocean of chaos. I tried not to panic, and I asked my other children to help me. Just when I was about to tell another mom that I couldn’t find her, Antonia came running up. I let out the biggest exhale and hugged her tightly, asking where she had gone. She told me she was exactly where she said she would be: just a few feet away in the grass playing with her doll. She had told me, but I was distracted and didn’t hear her. She had no idea why I would be so worried. She had done everything I taught her to do, so in her eyes, it seemed rather unnecessary that I would be so worried.

“Why were you looking for me?” the twelve-year-old Jesus asks his mother and father. I can only imagine how Mary must have felt. *Why wouldn’t* she be looking for him? She was terrified that something had happened. Maybe she wondered how they could forget their son in Jerusalem. Jesus was never really lost because he was doing exactly what God intended for him. He was growing in wisdom and understanding the ways of God. Jesus didn’t come to get lost; he came to seek the lost.

Mary knew that her son was special. She knew that he came from God, but it still surprised her to see how wise he was when it came to his understanding of God. Oh the things that he would teach her in the years to come, but for now, he must follow the commandments and obey his parents.