

Readings

Scripture

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.
- Luke 2:52 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

Something new and shattering is breaking through into something old. Something is trying to be born. And if the new thing is going to be born, then the old thing is going to have to give way, and there is agony in the process as well as joy, just as there is agony in the womb as it labors and contracts to bring forth the new life.

- Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat, The Annunciation* (p. 62)

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.
- Luke 1:54-55 (*English Standard Version*)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- John 1:14 (*English Standard Version*)

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

Growth in Grace
Luke 2:52

Remembering His Promise of Mercy
Brad Anderson

When the promise of mercy finds anyone in Jesus Christ, new creation growth begins across all areas of life. (Luke 1:54-55, 2:52; John 1:14; Philippians 1:6)

How is the scope of this new creation growth reflected through the life of Jesus Christ?

The living word entered: Intellectually... (Luke 2:52)

The living word entered: Physically... (Luke 2:52)

The living word entered: Spiritually... (Luke 2:52)

The living word entered: Socially... (Luke 2:52)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What process do you enjoy watching the most when you can observe it from beginning to end?
- What does Philippians 1:6 promise to the person who has found the mercy of God through Jesus Christ? What comfort does this provide for you when the going gets tough?
- When you think about this past year 2019, how would you summarize your growth in grace?
- What strikes you about the way Luke describes Jesus' growth and maturing? What dimensions of life are identified in this summary?
- What would you like the summary of your growth to be when you look back on 2020? Are there people you could include or steps you could take this year?