

CHRISTMAS 2

THE COLLECT : THE OCTAVE DAY OF CHRISTMAS
(and the Circumcision of Christ being New Year's Day)

ALMIGHTY God, who madest thy blessed Son to be circumcised, and obedient to the law for man: Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit; that, our hearts, and all our members, being mortified from all worldly and carnal lusts, we may in all things obey thy blessed will; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



ALMIGHTY God, who hast poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word; Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1. We will pray two Collects today, the first one being more ancient. What is this day in Christmas often called?
A. The _____ Day of Christmas
2. The word "Octave" means "eight". On the eighth day after birth, Jewish baby boys were circumcised and received their name, according to the Law. Why do we commemorate the Circumcision of Christ?
A. This day reminds us of the obedience of Jesus Christ in fulfilling all righteousness. He was circumcised and made _____ to the law _____ man.
3. What kind of circumcision do we pray God to grant unto us?
A. the true circumcision of the _____ (Romans 2:29)
4. For what purpose do we ask this?
A. That our hearts and _____ our members being _____ from all _____ and carnal lusts, we may in _____ things _____ God's blessed will. (I Thessalonians 4:3,7)

INTRODUCTION

A few days ago was New Year's Day. But what else? The Feast of the Circumcision of our Blessed Lord. And what did He receive at His Circumcision? His Name. So you see how each year begins with Jesus.



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I. REVELATION OF THE NAME.

1. **It was made known before His birth**, first to the Blessed Virgin herself, and then to Joseph, so that there could be no doubt about what His Name should be. As they heard it and pronounced it they would think of Joshua, the great leader who had to carry on and fulfil the work of Moses. For Joseph and the Blessed Virgin probably spoke in a language like Hebrew, and the name which we pronounce Jesus was by them pronounced Joshua (which means the same thing). If God took such care about the name, it shows that there was some important reason why that should be the name, and so:

II. THE REASON FOR THE NAME.



1. **Names are often given for a reason**, as, a pretty name, a loved name, a family name, or like the name of Samuel (which means asked of God) given because of his mother's prayer. So the Name of Jesus was given to our Blessed Lord, because of what His character and work should be, the Saviour.

2. **And Jesus is our Savior.**

- a. He *did* save us when He died upon the Cross and so bore the penalty of our sins (Romans 6:23, 5:8, I Peter 2:24)
- b. He *does* save us by His life of perfect righteousness, for our example and by His life given to us for strength. (I Peter 2:24, Romans 5:10, I Corinthians 15:2, St John 6:54-59)
- c. He *will* save us from the presence of sin (I Peter 1:5)

It is like people saved by a lifeboat from a sinking ship. As soon as they leave the ship and enter the lifeboat they have been saved. As long as they are tossing about in the lifeboat as it makes for shore, they are being saved. And when at length the lifeboat brings them to the shore, they will be saved. So, as soon as we accept Christ and trust in His redeeming blood, we have been saved. And every day as we trust in His power and life in us to overcome sin, we are being saved. and when at length He brings us to heaven we shall be saved.

3. **It was at His Circumcision that he received His Name and performed His first act as our Savior** by suffering His first pain and the first shedding of His precious blood. Names are given to Christians in Holy Baptism so that we should continually be reminded of our blessings and duties. When we are given our name in baptism, we are baptized with the words "I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." And so it is that we are in the shelter of God, under the shadow of His Name.

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