

LESSONS FOR LAMBS

SECOND WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

The color for Christmas is white.



C R O S S E T E A R I C
H K N L J H S K A J E M
I S N M E M D I N P E A
L O A W S J R L G R N L
D R Z H U E E L E O E E
D E A I S R A E L M H G
J R R T E U M D S I R Y
O E E E S S P H D S I P
S L N E M A T T H E W T
E B E T H L E H E M O I
P R O P H E C Y M A R Y
H E R O D M E S S I A H

angel
male
Nazarene
Matthew
dream
Messiah
Bethlehem

Joseph
Israel
Jerusalem
Mary
child
promise
killed

Herod
Egypt
white
Jesus
prophecy
cross

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What to listen for during the service?

Listen to the Introit, Collect, Gradual and Gospel. You can read these in your parent's bulletin too. What other names do you hear given to Jesus? What do they mean?

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

(The Gospel Reading is from the part of the Bible that is about Jesus and his ministry.)

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." 21 And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. 23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Questions to talk about with your parents:

- 1) An angel came and spoke to Joseph in a dream at the beginning of our reading. What did the angel tell Joseph to do?
- 2) What did Joseph do? Where did he take Jesus?
- 3) In verse 15 we hear about the prophecy, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Who else came out of Egypt that we hear about in the Old Testament?
- 4) Why did Herod kill all the male children in Bethlehem?
- 5) When the angel appeared to Joseph again in a dream after Herod died, what was Joseph told to do?
- 6) Where did Joseph end up taking Jesus in the end and what was Jesus called because of this?

People of the Bible: Herod

Herod the Great, who is talked about in our reading today, was a ruler over Judea from around 37 B.C. until his death soon after Jesus was born as mentioned in the reading. Herod built a palace for himself in Jerusalem. Herod the Great was a bad ruler, and wanted to kill Jesus. He was afraid of the prophecy that a new King, the Son of David, would be born and rule forever. In order to be sure Jesus was dead, Herod ordered that all the male children under 2 years old be killed. However, an angel came to Joseph to tell him to take Jesus away from there so He would live. God's promise of a Messiah would not be broken, so God protected and saved Jesus. God had a plan for Jesus to save all people by dying on the cross to forgive all of our sins. (Herod the Great is often confused with his son, Herod Antipas, who was the ruler that put John the Baptist in prison and later killed him. Pontius Pilate also sent Jesus to Herod Antipas before Jesus was crucified.)

Catechism Corner

The Sixth Commandment

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

What does this mean? Answer:

We should fear and love God that we may lead a chaste and decent life in word and deed and each love and honor his spouse.

Hymn of the Day - "From East to West"

- 1 From east to west, from shore to shore
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.
- 2 Behold, the world's creator wears
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our maker shares,
His fallen creatures all to save.
- 3 For this how wondrously He wrought!
A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought,
The chosen vessel of His grace.