

WORD SEARCH



Bethlehem
Egypt
Holy
Joseph
Messiah

boys
fulfill
Innocents
kill
prophecy

destroy
Herod
Jesus
martyrs
Savior

LESSONS FOR LAMBS

THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS (DECEMBER 28)

The color for the Holy Innocents, Martyrs, is red.



What to listen for during the service?

Today we observe the feast of the Holy Innocents, the young boys who were killed as a result of Herod trying to kill the Messiah. However, Herod could not kill the Messiah. We talk often in the service about Jesus coming to be our Savior, our Messiah. Listen for the parts of the service when we talk about Jesus coming to be our Savior, to save us from our sins. What parts of the service talk about this?

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Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:13-18

(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."

Questions to talk about with your parents:

- 1) What did the angel tell Joseph to do? What was Herod trying to do?
- 2) What did Joseph do? Where did he go? How long did they stay there?
- 3) Who tricked Herod? How did Herod react?
- 4) What did Herod do to try to destroy the Messiah?
- 5) How old were the boys Herod killed? Where were the boys from?
- 6) Was Herod able to kill the Messiah? What did Jesus grow up and do for us?

People of the Bible: Holy Innocents

Today we observe the feast of the Holy Innocents. Who were the Holy Innocents? In today's reading we read about an angel appearing to Joseph to tell him to take Jesus to Egypt to protect him against Herod. Herod was determined to destroy the Messiah. Herod tried to find the Messiah through

information from the wise men, but when they didn't give him the information he wanted he decided he would do anything he could to destroy the Messiah. Herod was evil so he sent men to kill all the male children two years old and under who were in Bethlehem and the surrounding areas. Thanks be to God that Jesus, our Savior, had already been taken to Egypt by his parents, Joseph and Mary. These boys that were killed were martyred for the faith. They died because of Herod's evil desires to kill the Messiah, Jesus. This also happened to fulfill a prophecy from Jeremiah because the Messiah was promised and written about in the Old Testament. Herod wanted to kill Jesus, but he couldn't. Instead many boys died, but they now rest with Jesus.

HYMN – "By All Your Saints in Warfare"

- 1 By all Your saints in warfare,
For all Your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus,
Forevermore be blest!
For You have won the battle
That they might wear the crown;
And now they shine in glory
Reflected from Your throne.
- 2 All praise for infant martyrs,
Whom Your mysterious love
Called early from their warfare
To share Your home above.
O Rachel, cease your weeping;
They rest from earthly cares!
Lord, grant us crowns as brilliant
And faith as sure as theirs.
- 3 Then let us praise the Father
And worship God the Son
And sing to God the Spirit,
Eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number
Fall down before the throne,
Ascribing pow'r and glory
And praise to God alone.