

December 30, 2007

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Please Read

[Matthew 2:13-23](#)

Read also

[Isaiah 63:7-9](#)

[Psalm 148](#)

[Hebrews 2:10-18](#)

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, 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."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

--- Matthew 2:13-23

Cosmic Drama

Just when it seemed that everything was going well,
the Baby born,
the skies alive with angel song,
the shepherds taking a well deserved break
to visit the Child and lift their voice in praise,
and after a time, scholars and royalty,
visiting and bringing rich gifts
to lay before the newborn King;
Just when it seemed
that the Day of the Lord had finally dawned,
along comes Herod, malicious and mad,
spewing his murderous venom,
and taking it out on the innocents.
Thus it seems always with power --
violence and paranoia running hand in hand --
striking out at the poor and innocent.

But the story doesn't end there.
God has a bigger idea, a better plan,
and so, dream inspired, Joseph
and his little family head off to Egypt
until Herod is dead and the danger past.
Then Egypt with its Sphinx and pyramids
gives way to Nazareth,
nestled in the hills of Galilee,
where a boy can grow and play and learn,
and listen for the voice of God,
and let the Spirit take root in his heart.
Someday, from this little town
he will go forth a man,
ready for the road that leads to Calvary,
where the story is repeated:
Fierce anger and power
putting to death the good and pure,
only to find in the end,
their plot is foiled,
their purpose blunted
by the gracious hand of God.

*The cosmic drama ever shall repeat;
Good reigns in triumph; evil tastes defeat.*