

A reading from the book of Hebrews chapter 2 verses 10 through 18.

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying,

“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”

And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 148

**Leader: Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!**

People: Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his hosts!

**Leader: Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars!**

People: Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!

**Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord!
For he commanded and they were created.**

People: And he established them forever and ever;
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

**Leader: Praise the Lord from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all deeps,**

People: fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy wind fulfilling his word!

**Leader: Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!**

People: Beasts and all livestock,

creeping things and flying birds!

**Leader; Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!**

People: Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!

**Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted;
his majesty is above earth and heaven.**

People: He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his saints,
for the people of Israel who are near to him.
Praise the Lord

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
forever. Amen.**

Leader: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

(allow them time to stand)

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 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."

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. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

"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."

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But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 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." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 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. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Leader: You may be seated.

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*