

Herod even built his palace wall to wall with the temple. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. He did everything prophesied of Him, including being born in the usual way in human flesh. Herod was afraid of a Baby, because the Baby threatened to expose his lie. Jesus had to perfectly complete everything left unfulfilled by the chosen people just so that we can all be called a son of the Living God. Herod threatened Christ so God moved His Only Begotten Son to Egypt. This fulfilled two prophecies, the first was that of Christ's suffering and the second was of His being called out of Egypt.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O God our Father, Your Son grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with You and men. Bless, guide, and govern the children and young people of Your Church by Your Holy Spirit that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Word. Grant that they may serve You well and usefully, developing talents not for their own sakes but for the glory of God and the welfare of their neighbors. Protect and defend them from all danger and harm, giving Your Holy angels charge over them.

O Father most loving, grant that we who are under the power of sin, may in Christ be redeemed and regenerated both in body and soul. Let us always be Your obedient servants. Empower us by Your Holy Spirit that we are able to perform the works necessary for repentance, and faithfully follow Your will with a glad heart and a pure mind.

Establish the reign of the Prince of Peace over the nations of the Earth. Visit with Your Mercies Your whole creation and every commonwealth of people. Let all be saved and none lost, by bringing them to the obedience of that Holy Child Whom You sent for the redemption of all mankind. This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Word made flesh. Let the light of His life: His Word, doctrine, and creed; His miracles, signs and wonder; His birth, ministry and character; His Passion, death and Resurrection, be that light of divine truth which will show the way to all.

For our sick, our wounded, our hurt, our troubled, our fallen, and our absent, fellow believers we pray. Grant them whatever they may need: soundness of body, strength of faith, or security of the assurance of salvation in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
Endow us with Your grace that we are able to show forth Your Love in Christ which was showered down on us in His birth.

© **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS ONE

Chant Tone



Introit

When Israel was a child, I — loved him,*
and out of Egypt I | called my son.

Thus says the Lord: "A voice is heard
in — Ramah,*

lamentation and bitter — weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her — children;*
she refuses to be comforted for her
children, because they | are no more."

Thus says the Lord: "Keep your voice
from — weeping,*
and your | eyes from tears,

for there is a reward for your work,
de | clares the Lord,*
and they shall come back from the
land of the | enemy.

There is hope for your future, de | clares
the Lord,*
and your children shall come back
to their own — country."

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

When Israel was a child, I — loved him,*
and out of Egypt I | called my son.

*(Antiphon, Hosea 11:1;
Jeremiah 31:15-17)*

Collect of the Day

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him Who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is — given,*
and the government shall be upon His — shoulder,
And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, | Mighty God,*
Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.
Oh sing to the Lord a — new song,*
for He has done | marvelous things!

(Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: We give thanks to You, O Lord, for having sent redemption to Your people. We praise You for keeping Your covenant established with our forefathers and proclaimed by Your prophets. We give thanks to You with our whole heart and praise You for sending us salvation in the Babe of Bethlehem. We kneel before His manger, for in it You have revealed Your honor and majesty, and especially Your Love. Grant us strength and courage to acknowledge Jesus, increase our faith and bless our witness that it may bring others to the Light of their salvation. This we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS VERY SHORT. At most there are two Sundays between Christmas Day (December 25) and Epiphany (January 6) in which we are able to sing the Christmas Hymns that the world has been singing all of Advent. The world is already taking down their "Christmas" decorations and the stores are getting ready for New Years Eve. Confusing the dates is not the only thing the world misunderstands about Christmas. The people of the world still have a deep need to know the truth about the first advent of our Savior as the babe in Bethlehem and they have a serious need to know the Only Begotten Son of the Father as their Savior because of His impending second advent.

THEME OF THE DAY:
Killing Of The Innocents

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Hosea 11:1;) Jeremiah 31:15-17
Hosea 11:1 is the principle statement of prophecy concerning Christ's flight into Egypt. The chosen people never fulfilled their place in the promised land. Jesus as the greater Israel is called out of Egypt to save His people. Jeremiah 31:15-17 is quoted in our Gospel Lesson. Our verses were chosen to show how the world plots against the knowledge of Jesus.

COLLECT

Jesus took up our flesh to restore humanity to the place of prominence in creation. For this we are eternally grateful.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 63:7-14

To our shame, we are often the cause of our own affliction as we doubt God. Isaiah told us that the Messiah came and was afflicted as we are afflicted. Yet Jesus was not the cause of His own affliction, we are that cause. Even in our doubt, the Love of God was so great that He sent His Only Begotten Son to suffer and die in our place. God showed Love toward the rebellious Israel, God shows His Love toward us and in that Love He has redeemed us with the very life of His Son.

GRADUAL—Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

We are singing verse 6 of Isaiah because it is a statement of victory. God won a victory in the Birth of our Savior. Psalm 98 is a prophecy of the Messiah. Jesus is our King. In His birth He came to His throne which causes us to rejoice in a new song. We use the first half of verse 1 to express our wonder over the birth of God in human flesh.

EPISTLE LESSON—Galatians 4:4-7

The churches in Galatia were a phenomenal success story for the work of Paul. However, as time went along, some people had convinced them that they needed to be more Jewish in their view of the Scripture. They began to reject Paul and came to depend on their own goodness for their salvation to the point of rejecting Jesus. Paul reclaimed them with this Epistle. In our reading for today he made a powerful exposition of Christ as being the Godman (sent by God and born of a woman.) Paul's argument includes the fact that we are called by God as sons. We are not servants who must work for our salvation, but a son (by adoption) who inherits salvation.

GOSPEL LESSON—Matthew 2:13-23

This text is the story of two kings. One was named Herod. One is named Jesus. There is a radical contrast between these two. Herod was a man who did everything he could to make himself appear to be the messiah.