

January 13, 2010

Objectives:

1. The birth of John the Baptist
2. The birth of Jesus
3. The shepherds and what the angels told them
4. The Presentation of Our Lord
5. The adoration of the Magi
6. The Holy Innocents

READING FOR

~~THE BIRTHDAY~~

Matthew 3:13-17

The birth of St. John the Baptist

Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying [the *Benedictus*]. And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

[Left over from yesterday]

The song Mary sings when Elizabeth greets her is known as
the Magnificat.

The Birth of Jesus

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKk9rv2hUfA>

City of David = Bethlehem. Jesus is David's heir, born in David's home town!

Savior: Remember that "Jesus" means "God saves." God has come to save His people!

Christ = Messiah = Anointed One. This is the person God has chosen to fulfill His promises and prophecies.

Lord = LORD = Adonai = God

**And now, the moment you've all been waiting
for!**

**The name of today's lucky contestant will be
drawn, and answer some simple questions!**

1. What happened?
2. What's the name of the old man they meet? What has he been waiting for?
3. What does he prophesy about Jesus and Mary?
4. What's the name of the old woman? How old is she? About how long has she been coming to the Temple?

The Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of
thy people Israel.

Simeon's prophecy

Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.

Adoration of the Magi

Magi literally means “wise men.” They are popularly called “kings” because of Isaiah 60:3:

“And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

The Bible doesn't say that there are three of them; this is inferred from the fact that they give three gifts.

Three gifts, each with meaning:

Gold: For a king!

Frankincense: Most incense we encounter in church is at least in part frankincense, which smells sweet when it burns. It was (and is) used in worship, and so is a sign of divinity.

Myrrh: Smells **NASTY** (like rubber-soled shoes left near a heat source, or scorched insulation). Its strong odor meant that it was used to cover up the scent of decay during preparations for burial, so this gift is a foreshadowing of the death of Jesus.

The Holy Innocents

Herod is not the legitimate King of the Jews. (Why not?) When the Magi come looking for a newly-born King of the Jews, Herod sees this as a threat to his throne, and tries to get the Magi to find the baby for him. An angel warns them not to tell, and they avoid Herod on the way home.

Eventually, Herod realizes he's been tricked, and to play it safe, has his army kill all the baby boys under the age of two. He doesn't get Jesus, because Joseph had been warned in a dream to escape to Egypt.

These children are the first people killed directly on account of Jesus, and are known as "The Holy Innocents."