

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

The Lord Jesus Undergoes a New Exodus in Order to Save His People from Their Sins



Background: Christ was born to take our place under the law and pay the penalty for our sins. King Herod placed a challenge to this plan by attempting to kill all the boys in Bethlehem thinking one of them would grow up to be an earthly king. God the father chose to save His son for his later death on the cross, by having leave Bethlehem for Egypt.

The Flight into Egypt Vittore Carpaccio 1515

Israel where Christ grew up to adulthood. All this happened to be sure Christ would fulfill God's Plan of Salvation. Now we live in Peace with God, knowing His Son did fulfill the plan and our sins are forgiven by trusting in Jesus for our salvation.

In time, they moved to

The Lessons: Isaiah 63:7–14, Galatians 4:4–7, & Matthew 2:13–23

Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must "take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt" (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He "had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son'" (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing "his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses" (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. "He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them" (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we "receive adoption as sons" in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:4–