

Space for God God, our Refuge

PREPARATION

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

...let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them sing joyful praises forever. Spread your protection over them, that all who love your name may be filled with joy.

Psalm 5:11

WORSHIP

"God's way is perfect. All the Lord's promises prove true. He is a shield for all who look to him for protection. For who is God except the Lord? Who but our God is a solid rock?

"The Lord lives! Praise to my Rock!

May God, the Rock of my salvation, be exalted!"

2 Samuel 22:31-32, 47

CONFESSION

In my distress I prayed to the Lord, and the Lord answered me and set me free.

The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?

Psalm 118:5-6

MEDITATION – Matthew 2:13-23*

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod's death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: "I called my Son out of Egypt."

Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men's report of the star's first appearance.

Herod's brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A cry was heard in Ramah— weeping and great mourning. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted, for they are dead."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt.

"Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead."

So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother.

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

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| Read | Slowly, several times. |
| Reflect | What does the text say? |
| Respond | How does it relate to my life? |
| Rest | I welcome God's healing and renewal. |

But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod's son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee.

So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: "He will be called a Nazarene."

ANCHORING PRAYER

Lord, you are my strength and fortress, my refuge in the day of trouble!

Jeremiah 16:19

REVIEW OF THE HEART

What wickedness did I witness or encounter recently?

In the face of such evil, what was my response?

WISDOM

The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Psalm 9:9

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in people.

Psalm 118:8

Those who listen to instruction will prosper; those who trust the Lord will be joyful.

Proverbs 16:20

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

BENEDICTION

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.

[Amen]

Psalm 91:2

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance.

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.