

Space for God Finding Jesus

PREPARATION

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

Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today!

Psalm 95:6-7

WORSHIP

Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness.

Let the whole world know what he has done. Sing to him; yes, sing his praises.

Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds.

Exult in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord.

Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.

1 Chronicles 16:8-11

CONFESSION

Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them.

Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously.

Isaiah 55:6-7

MEDITATION – Matthew 2:1-12*

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

After this interview the wise men

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

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.

went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

ANCHORING PRAYER

I am here to worship you.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

In what ways have I searched for the Lord?

What "treasure" am I withholding from the King?

WISDOM

I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future. A star will rise from Jacob; a scepter will emerge from Israel.

Numbers 24:17a

All kings will bow before him, and all nations will serve him. Long live the king!

Psalm 72:11,15a

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you.

Psalm 9:10

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

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

BENEDICTION

But may all who search for you be filled with joy and gladness in you.

May those who love your salvation repeatedly shout,

"The Lord is great!"

Psalm 40:12,16

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.