

and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

The Apostles’ Creed (p. 192)

The Hymn of the Day: 725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”

The Homily

Offerings are not gathered during Service today. While Pastor Messer prepares the Table for the Holy Supper, you may spend time prayerfully preparing to receive the Blessed Sacrament (you may wish to read through Luther’s “Christian Questions . . .” on pp. 329-330). If you wish to leave an offering, you may do so by placing it in the plate by the door as you depart after Service.

The Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

The Service of the Sacrament

(Communicants are to be in full confessional fellowship with the LCMS)

The Preface - Agnus Dei (pp. 194-199)

The Distribution

The Nunc Dimittis - Benediction (pp. 199-202)

Soli Deo Gloria!

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs



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The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

DIVINE SERVICE 3, PAGE 184

The Service of Preparation

(Upon entering the nave, silence should be observed to allow all the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for the presence of the Lord and the reception of His gifts)

Preparatory Prayers

Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

Confession and Absolution (pp. 184-185)

The Service of the Word

The Introit

Ps. 31:1, 3, 5; antiphon: Rev. 7:14b

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

**In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.**

For you are my rock and my fortress;
and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me.

**Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.**

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

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.

They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

The Kyrie (p. 186)

The Gloria in Excelsis (pp. 187-189)

The Salutation and Collect of the Day (p. 189)

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:15-17

¹⁵Thus 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."

¹⁶Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. ¹⁷There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country."

The Gradual

Ps. 71:4a, 5a, 6a, b, 8

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked.

For you, O LORD, are my hope.

**Upon you have I leaned from before my birth;
you are he who took me from my mother's womb.**

My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all the day.

The Second Reading

Revelation 14:1-5

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

The Alleluia and Verse

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13-18

¹³Now when [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose