

December 28th, 2025 Lectionary Notes

The Readings on This Day

*****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)**

Christmas Season



During medieval times, Christmas was celebrated for twelve days, culminating at Epiphany, the thirteenth day. The first Sunday within these twelve days focuses on the biblical stories about Jesus' childhood: God's protection of the infant Jesus, the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple, and the boy Jesus conversing with the temple authorities.

[Isaiah 63:7-9](#)

Often in the lectionary, the Old Testament reading presents a parallel to the gospel. Centuries ago, God had carried the Jewish people away from an enemy king and back to safety, and later in history, God protected the infant Jesus from the soldiers of Herod. The story of Jesus reiterates God's history with Israel.

The Psalm for the Day

We respond to the reading in Isaiah 63, in which all the people give honor to God, by singing [Psalm 148](#), an exuberant song of praise. Not only men and women, young and old, but also cattle, wild beasts, hail and tempestuous wind, and even sea monsters—thought by these ancient landed people to be monstrous powers of evil—praise God on this day. Through Christ, God has carried the whole world into life.

[Hebrews 2:10-18](#)

The Hebrews reading calls believers brothers and sisters of Jesus. God the Father, who protected Jesus, now gives salvation to Jesus' brothers and sisters. But here at Christmas time in the liturgy, we remember the reality of endless human suffering, and we hope for God's salvation.

[Matthew 2:13-23](#)

In Year A, the Matthean story of Herod's murder of the infants of Bethlehem reminds worshipers that Jesus was born in order to die. The stereotypical Christmas mood of joy cannot forget the endless sufferings of the innocent, the grief of the mourners, the continued abuse of children, and Christ's crucifixion. Yet the narrative calls us to trust in the protection of our God.