

LESSONS FOR LAMBS

CHRISTMAS EVE

The color for Christmas is white.



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What to listen for during the service?

Listen to all the Christmas hymns you hear today. Which ones do you recognize? Can you sing along with any of them?

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

(The Gospel Reading is from the part of the Bible that is about Jesus and his ministry.)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Questions to talk about with your parents:

- 1) What does betrothed mean?
- 2) What does Immanuel mean?
- 3) Why was Jesus called Immanuel?
- 4) Jesus was the Son of God the Father in heaven, but why was it important that Joseph was the earthly father for Jesus?
- 5) Why did Joseph do what the angel of the Lord told him to do in a dream? Who gave him the strength to do this in faith?

People of the Bible: Joseph

In the Gospel reading today, we hear about Joseph and his wife Mary. But who is Joseph? Joseph is called the Guardian of Jesus since he served Jesus in a fatherly role during Jesus' life on earth. Joseph was Jewish, and was from Bethlehem but later settled in Nazareth. Jesus was born in Bethlehem because Joseph and Mary had returned there for a census

(counting of the population of the people), but Jesus was considered a Nazarene. Joseph worked as a carpenter, and was given the important role of raising Jesus when Jesus was a child. As it says in the reading, Joseph was from the family line of David, which was important because the Messiah was going to come from the family ("lineage") of David. When Jesus was born into this family to Joseph and Mary, this promise of a Messiah was fulfilled.

HYMN - "Silent Night, Holy Night"

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

WORD SCRAMBLE

esPoJh	_____	aeenrcptr	_____
amelmunI	_____	aehMssi	_____
yrMa	_____	nSo	_____
mhhteeleB	_____	hiatf	_____
aelng	_____	tibrh	_____
edamr	_____	aretfh	_____