

*Nurturing Faith...
Every Day in Every Way*

January 1, 2017

First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23



Angels Watching Over Me *Object: A picture of an angel or a Christmas angle ornament.*

Have you ever heard the song, "Angels Watching Over Me?" It is a beautiful Black Spiritual which tells about how God sends his angels to watch over us. No one knows who wrote the song, but it is believed to have originated in the southern part of the United States during the days of slavery. The song goes like this: (Sing it, if possible.)

All night, all day,
Angels watching over me, my Lord.
All night, all day,
Angels watching over me.

When Jesus was born, Herod was King. When he heard about the birth of Jesus, he thought that Jesus had come to set up a kingdom here on earth and he was not at all happy about that. He tried to find out where Jesus was so that he could kill him. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and warned him of the danger. "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 Jesus and Mary. They stayed there until Herod died.

When Herod died, God's angel spoke to Joseph in a dream again. "Get up, take the child and his mother and return to Israel. All who were out to kill the child are dead."

Isn't it wonderful that God sent angels to watch over his infant son and protect him from harm?

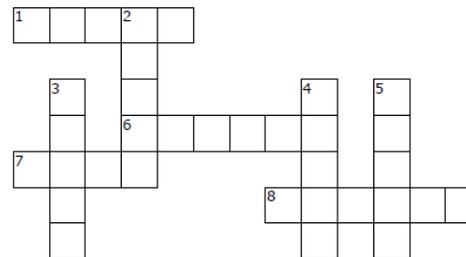
I'm glad that we have God's angels watching over us! (Sing) "All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord. All night, all day, angels watching over me.

Father, we thank you for your love and protection. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia (Col. 3:15, 16)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. To see images and hear voices in your mind while sleeping
6. To run away from someone or something; break loose; get free
7. To cause someone to die
8. A female parent

DOWN

2. A heavenly servant of God
3. A person from the time of birth until he or she is fully grown
4. The king of Judea who tried to kill baby Jesus
5. The part of every twenty-four hour period when it is dark

HEROD	NIGHT	CHILD	KILL
DREAM	ESCAPE	ANGEL	MOTHER

ANGEL ORNAMENT: Give the child a white paper doily. Fold the doily in half and then half again to make the "dress" of the angel. Use chenille wire to make the angel head and hook into the "dress". Add tinsel or garland to the head as decoration.

COOKIE CUTTER ANGELS: Help the child trace around the cookie cutter angel onto construction paper and let the child either decorate several angels on their paper or cut the angels out and glue them onto a poster to decorate with glitter, sequins, gel pens, etc. **TITLE** the poster **ANGELS WATCHING OVER ME!**



ESCAPE TO EGYPT

MATTHEW 2:13-23

