



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

January 4, 2015

Second Sunday of Christmas
Narrative Lectionary

Matthew 2:13-23



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

Sun is a-setting in the west; Angels watching over me, my Lord.

Sleep my child, take your rest; 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? Well, God loves all of his children. He loves you and me and he sends angels to watch over us. In Psalm 91, the Bible says:

Evil can't get close to you, harm can't get through the door.

He ordered his angels to guard you wherever you go.

If you stumble, they'll catch you; their job is to keep you from falling.

(Psalm 91:11-12 - The Message)

I'm glad that we have God's angels watching over us as we walk – even in dangerous places. Be thankful that God's angels are watching over you today! (Sing) "All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord. All night, all day, angels watching over me, my Lord."

Father, we thank you for your love and protection. Amen. - *Used by permission, Sermons4kids*

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)

Word Search Puzzle

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| Y | D | K | D | X | K | F | J | O | S | E | P | H | K | O |
| R | R | R | E | D | V | N | O | E | G | Y | P | T | P | R |
| O | O | Q | O | S | K | X | P | R | E | S | V | L | W | E |
| L | D | R | H | A | I | H | M | S | O | N | R | U | Q | T |
| Y | E | Z | N | Y | L | E | Q | D | E | A | T | H | N | U |
| H | Y | F | A | B | L | A | P | P | E | A | R | S | T | R |
| B | Q | U | Z | O | E | H | K | F | O | M | R | P | W | N |
| T | I | L | A | O | N | T | O | Y | T | A | C | C | P | S |
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| D | Y | F | E | Z | I | N | P | L | I | I | A | O | H | J |
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| C | Y | L | H | U | W | E | H | N | H | H | R | K | H | T |
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|--------|----------|-----------|--------|----------|
| LORD | FULLFILL | KILL | MOTHER | ESCAPE |
| EGYPT | RETURN | SEARCH | HEROD | ANGEL |
| MAGI | ISRAEL | BETHLEHEM | NIGHT | NAZARETH |
| JOSEPH | APPEAR | DEATH | SON | CHILD |

COOKIE ANGELS: Make angel cut-out cookies for the children to decorate and while frosting their cookies and decorating, talk about what the children know about angels.

ANGEL ORNAMENT or WALL HANGING: Give each child a white paper doilie. Fold the doilie 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.

ANGEL POSTER: Give the children a typed-out paper with Psalm 91: 11-12 on it and let them glue it onto a traced angel on construction paper and decorate the edges of their poster to make a pretty border. Another option is to let the children can glue the verses on a piece of construction paper and draw angels around the edges.



ESCAPE TO EGYPT MATTHEW 2:13-23

