

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

February 21, 2016

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalms 27 (5)

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35



The Fox and the Hen. Object: None Needed.

In our Bible lesson today, a group of religious leaders went to Jesus and said to him, "Get away from here if you want to live! Herod Antipas wants to kill you!"

Jesus replied, "Go tell that fox that I will keep on casting out demons and healing people today and tomorrow; and the third day I will accomplish my purpose. Yes, today, tomorrow, and the next day I must go about my business. It just wouldn't do for a prophet of God to be killed anywhere but in Jerusalem."

Then Jesus went on to compare himself to a mother hen. "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me."

What a beautiful picture of Jesus. The fox couldn't defeat him, but like a mother hen gathers her chicks beneath her wings to protect them, Jesus willingly gave himself to save his children—even though they had rejected him time and time again. Jesus still loves his children today. He still wants to gather them in his arms and protect them and care for them. Sometimes, we stray away, but Jesus still loves us just the same. That's the kind of love he has for you and me.

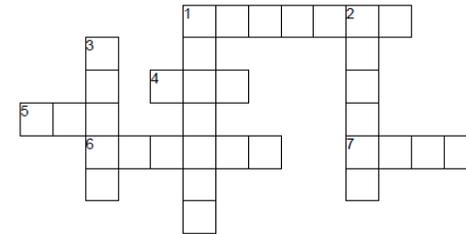
Father, we thank you that Jesus loves and protects us like a mother hen protects her chicks. Keep us near to him and may we never stray from him. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. Alleluia (John 3:14-15)

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. To keep safe from harm
4. An animal similar to a wolf or dog that has a long bushy tail
5. A female chicken
6. To bring together in one place.
7. To put to death

DOWN

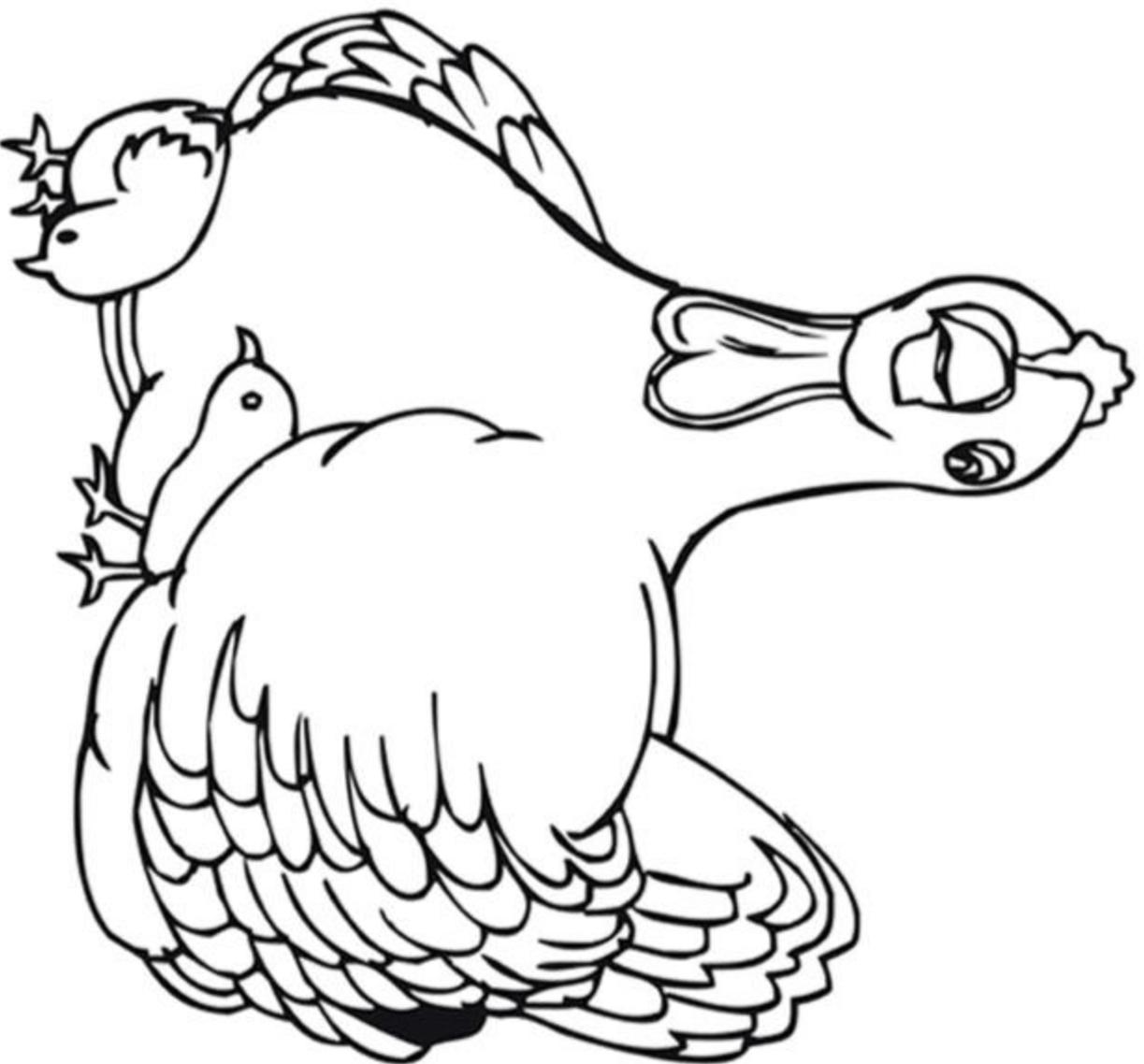
1. A person who teaches the will of God. Isaiah, for example.
2. Baby chickens
3. Feather-covered limbs a bird uses for flying.

FOX	PROPHET	HEN	CHICKS
GATHER	PROTECT	WINGS	KILL

SELF PORTRAIT WITH WING: Give the children paper and markers to draw a picture of themselves (or just their happy face with yarn for hair and craft eyes, etc). Place a cut out picture of a wing over the top of their self-portrait, and add a paper brad/fastener to move the wing up and down to cover the picture of the child.

CHICKS IN A HEART: Have the children cut out two hearts and write JESUS LOVES ME and decorate their hearts. Tape or hole-punch and use yarn to lace the two hearts together leaving an opening at the top. Draw a picture of a chick or cut out a picture of a chick and slip it inside the opening at the top of the heart! Encourage children to share their heart and today's story with someone else.

JESUS CARES FOR US LIKE A MOTHER HEN CARES FOR HER CHICKS



"How often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen
gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"
Luke 13:34b (NIV)