

ADVENT III  
MIDWEEK



# Witness Days

THE HOLY INNOCENTS  
INFANT MARTYRS





### **Jeremiah 31:15–17 ESV**

<sup>15</sup>Thus says the LORD:

“A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.  
Rachel is weeping for her children;  
she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD:

“Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears,  
for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD,  
and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

<sup>17</sup>There is hope for your future, declares the LORD,  
and your children shall come back to their own country.

### **Matthew 2:13–18 ESV**

<sup>13</sup>Now when [the Magi] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

### **Revelation 14:1–5 ESV**

<sup>1</sup>Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads. <sup>2</sup>And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, <sup>3</sup>and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. <sup>4</sup>It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, <sup>5</sup>and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

*About the Icons & Illustrations* – The cover shows: below, the earthly, temporal end of the baby boys of Bethlehem, slain by order of an enraged Herod the Great; and above, the eternal welcome they receive from Jesus in heavenly light, surrounded by angels. The symbols inside represent the Star of Bethlehem, the celestial guide leading the Magi to the Christ Child.