



fleeing the wrath of kings

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 15, 2026
MATTHEW 2:13-15

“REFUGEE”

by Malcolm Guite,
Sounding the Seasons

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple
Or cozy in a crib beside the font,
But he is with a million displaced people
On the long road of weariness and want.
For even as we sing our final carol
His family is up and on the road,
Fleeing the wrath of someone else’s quarrel,
Glancing behind and shouldering their load.
Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower,
Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled,
The lambs are slaughtered by the men of power,
As death squads spread their curse across the world.
But every Herod dies, and comes alone
To stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

REFLECTION AND ACTION

- How might Mary and Joseph felt knowing they might’ve been the only family in Bethlehem to escape King Herod’s wrath?
- How does thinking about Jesus as a refugee change how we view the Church as the Body of Christ?
- How can you or your community be a beacon of hope—however small—amidst a sea of fear and injustice?

PRAYER

Jesus, Lamb of God, you are with all who are displaced, all who are persecuted, all who are hunted, all who are forced away from what is familiar and into the unknown. Grant your peace and protection to all who are anxious and afraid, turn the hearts of those in power and all who carry out their orders, and stir up your Spirit within your Church to empower us with the courage and conviction necessary to join you out upon the road; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns upon the throne, in glory everlasting. Amen.