

the corner of the road, he went back to heaven, and Peter was left standing by himself in the dark. When he came to himself he said, "This is a strange thing! A few minutes ago I was shut up in prison, and now I am free. Surely it was God Himself who sent His angel to save me from the wicked Jews and from King Herod."

After he had stood some time thinking and wondering what he should do, Peter began to walk quickly towards the house of a kind woman called Mary. Although it was the middle of the night, a number of believers were still there praying.

When Peter knocked, a maid came to the door whose name was Rhoda. When she heard Peter's voice she was so surprised and pleased that she forgot to let him in, and ran to those inside, saying, "Peter is come! He is at the door!" But they could not believe it and said, "You are mistaken, Rhoda. Peter is in prison."

But she answered, "It is Peter." "It may be his angel," said they. "It can never be Peter himself." So Peter went on knocking, and when at last they opened the door he told them the whole story, as soon

as they were quiet enough to listen to it. After telling them to send the good news to the other believers, Peter went away to a safe place.

When the soldiers found that Peter was not in the prison, they were much frightened, and when they could not explain how he had got away, the angry king ordered that they be put to death.

### Questions on the Lesson

1. Whom did Herod put to death for the sake of Jesus? 2. What did he do to Peter?
3. What did the believers do while Peter was in danger? 4. Did God answer their prayer? 5. How was Peter brought out of the prison? 6. How did they get through the prison gate? 7. What did Peter at first suppose it all meant? 8. Where did the angel leave him? 9. To whose house did Peter go? 10. Why did Rhoda not open the door? 11. What did those inside say when she told them that Peter had come? 12. Did Peter stay in Jerusalem? 13. What did Herod do when he found Peter was gone? 14. What is the Golden Text? 15. What does this teach us about the angels?

### THE ANGEL'S SONG

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.



I HAVE LEARNED  
TO-DAY THAT

Jesus is near those who love Him



**Primary Catechism—90.** Which is the Tenth Commandment? The Tenth Commandment is, "Thou shalt not covet." **91.** What is it to covet? To covet is to have a wrong desire for what belongs to others.

**Shorter Catechism—21.** Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, for ever.

### Lesson Hymn

My Saviour, be Thou near me  
When I lie down to sleep,  
And safe from every danger  
My soul and body keep.  
With Thee there is no darkness,  
The light it shineth still;  
My Saviour, be Thou near me,  
And I will fear no ill.

Amen.

—Hymn 400, Book of Praise