

DECEMBER 21, 2014
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking⁺ faith home

God the Father showed his love for us by giving us Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Luke 1:26-38	The birth of Jesus foretold
Monday	Luke 1:46-55	Mary's song
Tuesday	Luke 1:67-80	Zechariah's song
Wednesday	Luke 2:1-7	The birth of Jesus
Thursday	Luke 2:8-20	Angels appear to shepherds
Friday	Titus 2:11-14	God's grace has appeared
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-8	God's love continues forever
Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Lord, I will sing about your great love forever. For all time to come, I will tell how faithful you are. Psalm 89:1 (NIRV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for your wonderful love, wrapped up for us in the gift of Jesus. Amen.

Mealtimes Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for your gift of love signified by food, family and friends. Most of all, thank you for your gift of Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord be with you. May God's favor rest on you and his Spirit come to you. Amen. (Luke 1:28-30, 35)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Can you remember a time when you had an unexpected visitor? Share your story.
- Mary was visited by an angel with the amazing news that she was going to give birth to the Son of God. If you were in Mary's position, how do you think you would have felt?
- Jesus was God's gift of love to the world. Why is Jesus the most special Christmas gift of all?

DEVOTIONS

This week, light all four candles on your home Advent wreath. In doing so, use the following words:

*The fourth candle on our Advent wreath is the **ANGEL CANDLE**. When Jesus was born, the angels announced that our Savior had come. God the Father sent his Son to earth to save us because he loves us.*

Have a household member read John 3:16-17. Then say this prayer together, repeating after the leader:

Lord God, thank you for showing your love to us by sending Jesus our Savior. Fill our hearts and our homes with love this Christmas. Amen.

SERVICE

Plan to visit a person who is homebound or in a nursing home before Christmas Day. Prepare a gift of love to bring to them and sing a Christmas carol with them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Place figures from a Christmas nativity set (e.g. wise men, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, animals) throughout your home. During this week, move them closer to the manger. Have Mary and Joseph arrive first, followed by the shepherds and wise men. Last of all, place Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow.



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