## **DECEMBER 28, 2014** FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY



# In Jesus we see God's salvation.

### 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 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple
Monday	Titus 2:11-14	Salvation has appeared
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 6:1-2	Now is the day of salvation
Wednesday	Isaiah 43:16-21	The Lord is doing a new thing
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	For everything a season
Friday	James 4:13-15	If it is the Lord's will
Saturday	Psalm 148	All creation praises God
Sunday	John 1:10-18	The Word became a human being

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people." Luke 2:30-31 (NLT)

#### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for Jesus, our salvation. Let all you have made praise you! Amen. (Luke 2:30, Psalm 148)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Praise the Lord, all men, women and children, for he gives us food for our bodies and Jesus as our Savior. Amen. (Psalm 148:12-13, Luke 2:30-31)

#### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord make you strong and wise, and bless you with his saving grace. Amen. (Luke 2:40)



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### **CARING CONVERSATIONS**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Have you ever waited a long time for something? How did you feel when the waiting was over?
- What was Simeon waiting for? (Luke 2:25-35) How did he react when he held the baby Jesus in his arms?
- Imagine yourself in the place of Simeon. What would you say?

### DEVOTIONS

Psalm 148 encourages all that God has made to praise him. Use this psalm as a basis for writing your own household psalm of praise, incorporating familiar or contemporary images and ideas.

### SERVICE

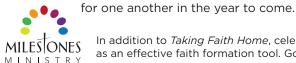
In the temple in Jerusalem, Simeon and Anna encouraged and blessed two young, first-time parents, Mary and Joseph. Contact parents with young children in your church or community and offer to carry out a household act of service on their behalf (e.g. help with cleaning, ironing or childcare) so they can enjoy some time out together.

### **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Take time this New Year's Eve (Wednesday) to reflect on the past year together as a household. Play games together or plan a whole-household activity. As the evening proceeds, share memories, photos and videos from the past year. Consider these questions:

- What are some good things that have happened in the past year?
- What are the most difficult challenges your household has faced in the past year? What did you learn from them?
- In what ways have members of your household changed or grown over the past year?
- How has your relationship with God changed in the past year?
- What are your greatest hopes for the coming year?
- What are some challenges you see facing you in the coming year?

Finish with a time of prayer for one another, asking God to bless and care



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