

SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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AND THE
WORD
BECAME
FLESH
AND LIVED
AMONG
US
J O H N 1 : 1 4

"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 2, 2022

January 2, 2022
Second Sunday of Christmas

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

OPENING DIALOGUE

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

GATHERING SONG - Angels We Have Heard On High (verses 1&3)



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



OPENING PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,

You have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness-

A beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

Amen.

Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

A reading from Genesis. ¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

CAROL: *I Wonder As I Wander* (verse 1)

I Wonder As I Wander

642

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like
wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a
star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in
Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo - ple like

you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
star's light did fall; the prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
you and like I. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a:

A reading from Micah. ² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
⁵and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

CAROL: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 1&4)

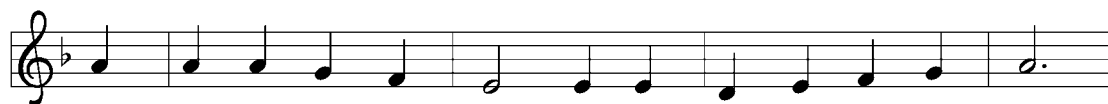
O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38:

A reading from Luke. ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* (verses 1&4)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light-ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

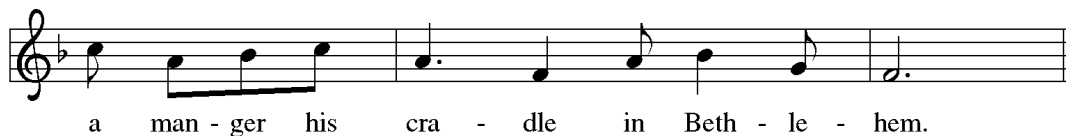
Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25:

A reading from Matthew. ¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

CAROL: *That Boy-Child of Mary* (verses 1&4)

That Boy-Child of Mary



2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,

3 How can he save us, how can he help us,

4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?

God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.

born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?

makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

Lesson: Luke 2:8-20:

A reading from Luke. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (verses 1&4)

Angels, from the Realms of Glory



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
- 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
- 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem-pla-tions, bright-er vi - sions beam a - far;
- 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon-der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na-tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er-more your voic - es rais-ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11:

A reading from Matthew. ¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL: *What Child Is This* (verses 1&3)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Lesson: John 1:1-14:

A reading from John. ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL: *Love Has Come* (verses 1&3)

Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de Noël's composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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Please stand if you are able.

Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *(Please respond.)*

P: Merciful God, C: Receive our Prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY (*intro*)

In the Bleak Midwinter



3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti. 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

It is you, loving God, who light our path with truth.

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger

to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life

cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty,

and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below!
You are the shepherds telling the story.
We tell it in the streets and across the land.
You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.
**We worship with gifts of song and service,
talents and treasures.**
You are the angels announcing peace.
We live with joy and go now in peace.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Joy to the World* (verses 1&4)

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Liturgist	Marjorie Dale
Church Office Email Address	office@solomonslutheran.org
Organist	Doug Mummert
Head Usher	Bernie & Edna Harris
Acolyte	Wayne Dale
Lector.....	Sam Mull
Securing Offering.....	Janice McEntire & Zoe Mummert
Attendance last Sunday	63

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Visitors! We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

Prayer requests for the following *Friends & Family of Anne English, Linda Berberich, Jane Winters, Alan Johnson, Linda Wepking, Ann Grapes, Bonnie Hudson, Frances Kramer, Connie Bikle, Nancy Bumbaugh Cook, Charles and Mary Jo Bedsworth, Rich Plummer, Minnie Tom, Bonnie Creager Youcum, Sandy Chilcote, Sandy Bream, Linda Keller, Raelynn Tarman, Susie Alleman, David Riggleman, Thelma Briggs, Darrell Veilleux, Bud Armstrong, Gertie Reichard, Manny Negron, Millie Kulkusky.* If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire. **Note:** At the beginning of each month, the Prayer Request List will start anew. If you would like to remain listed on the next month's list, or if you would like to have your name removed from the list before the end of the month, please call the office.

Lutheran Disaster Response: On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 30 tornadoes swept through six states. So far, 94 people are reported dead across five states, more than 80 of those in Kentucky. For those unaccounted for, search-and-rescue operations are underway. Homes and businesses were destroyed, and over 300,000 people were without electricity. Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and other partners in the area to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Your gifts to support these response efforts will empower our partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. Given the extent of the damage, recovery will take years as thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt or repaired. With your support, Lutheran Disaster Response can accompany survivors on the long road to recovery. **Your gifts to "U.S. Tornadoes" will be used in full (100%) to help people impacted by the tornadoes until the response is complete.** You may make your donation to Solomon's Lutheran Church marked "US Tornadoes" Thank you.

Youth Game Night with Trinity Lutheran: Saturday January 15, 2022, 6 – 8 in the Solomon's Fellowship Center. We will be hosting a youth game night between our church youth and the youth from Trinity Lutheran. We will have board games, card games, twister, and room to run and play ball. We will be making Soft Pretzels and Ice-Cream Sundaes. We will have a sign-up sheet on the Sunday School Bulletin Board.

2022 Altar Flower Chart is posted in the cloakroom off the church entryway. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information. Knowing the cost increased, if you would like to share the cost, by asking someone else to share the cost, you are welcome to do so. When you sign-up for a Sunday, you will be responsible to obtain the bulletin information for you and your friend and forward it to Kimberly. Should there be a Sunday that flowers are not donated, the flower vases will be removed.

Power Pack Meals for New Franklin School: We received this message from Cindy Holmquist, the Power Pack coordinator: “We have been packing for seven children weekly since September. We can always use individual size vegetables, preferably in cups but cans will do & meal items such as Ramen noodles, Cup of noodles, or Chef Boyardee. Juice pouches, 8oz water bottles & Yoo-hoo or Nestle's drinks are always needed. Snack items would be next on the list and fruit & applesauce are still in abundance on our shelves.” You may drop off donations to Power Packs at the collection box in the Sunday School Room.

Christian Education Committee will have a meeting every 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Youth Sunday School Classes starting at 9:00 a.m. have resumed.

Bulletin Announcement Forms are located in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

Council Minutes, Monthly Financial Statement and Committee Minutes are available in the library for anyone to read.

JANUARY 2, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

God lives among us with grace and truth.

taking
faith
home

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Israel will return to its own land
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Wednesday	2 Timothy 1:8-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Thursday	Zechariah 8:14-17	God's promises to Zion
Friday	2 Corinthians 12:1-10	Visions from the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 147:12-20	Sing and praise the Lord
Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, our hearts sing with gladness for your grace and truth that blesses us each day through Jesus, the Word that became flesh and lives among us now. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of this food, a reminder of your care for us each and every day through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you every day and in every way.
(Ephesians 1:3)

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Talk or think about the people that support you in your daily life.
- Who has mentored you in the Christian faith? How has that person mentored you?

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Silent Night, Holy Night!



DEVOTIONS

Read: John 1:1-18.

As beautiful as the birth story in Luke is, there is something very powerful about John's account. It is the message of Jesus' entry into our world and lives that is not connected with specific moments. John's account has a timeless and cosmic quality to it that captures the imagination. Not everything about us is marked in time and in a location like Bethlehem. It might be the death of a loved one or an enduring crisis. During such moments, what we need most is God's grace that accepts us, God's light that shatters darkness, and God's truth that heals relationships. What we need to know is that God's Word has entered our lives and world [become flesh] and lives among us now, during our highs and lows and everything in between. This light, grace, and truth stands with us in Christ Jesus, not just as individuals, but as God's whole people.

Discuss: Where do you hope for God's healing power in the world? In your life?

Pray: **Gracious God, you turn our sadness into joy; may we remember that you are present in our lives and world to give us hope, peace, and compassion for others through Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you share God's grace with someone?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

During the twelve days of Christmas, we remember that St. Francis of Assisi is credited with making the first nativity scene on Christmas Eve in the year 1223. He was devoted to the Christ child. During these twelve days, we remember the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. If you have a nativity scene set up in your house, consider leaving it out until Epiphany on January 6. Place the white Christ candle (from the Advent wreath) near the scene. Light the candle and take a moment to meditate on the birth of Jesus.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, you are the light that shines on everyone. Help us to shine your light on others that they may know of your glory. Amen.**