

DECEMBER 20, 2015  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

taking+  
faith  
home

*My soul rejoices in God my Savior.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth
Monday	Luke 1:56-80	The birth of John the Baptist
Tuesday	Luke 1:26-38	An angel visits Mary
Wednesday	Matthew 1:18-25	An angel visits Joseph
Thursday	Isaiah 9:2-7	To us a child is born
Friday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Saturday	John 1:1-14	The Word became flesh
Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

With all my heart I praise the Lord, and I am glad because of God my Savior. He cares for me, his humble servant. **Luke 1:46-48 (CEV)**

#### **SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:**

##### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, child of Bethlehem, come and be King in our hearts and home. Amen. (Micah 5:2)

##### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, bless our home with love this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts, make us ready for your coming. Amen.

##### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God give you strength and courage. May God's face smile upon you and God's kindness save you. Amen. (Psalm 80:3)



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### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is a piece of good news you remembering receiving? How did you react?
- How did Elizabeth respond to Mary's arrival from Nazareth? (Luke 1:39-45)
- In what ways is Jesus' birth good news for you? What will be your response this Christmas?

### DEVOTIONS

Use this simple liturgy for lighting your fourth Advent candle this week:

*Leader:* In **John 3:16**, we read that **God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Our fourth Advent candle is the candle of love. As we light it, let us celebrate the love that Jesus shows us.** (Light all four candles on your Advent Wreath.)

*All:* **Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving us so much. Fill our home with love this Christmas. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Is there room for more at your meal table this Christmas? Be on the lookout for someone who may be without friends or family at this festive time, and invite them to join you, either on Christmas Day or the days after. Students, single adults, recent immigrants, widows, widowers, and elderly persons can feel particularly lonely at Christmas time.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

On Christmas Eve or Day use a manger scene you have or build a simple one and tell the story of Jesus' birth using the Christmas story from Luke 2:1-20. You can also have people play the role of the different characters in the story (including the animals) and act out the Christmas story.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)