

DECEMBER 25, 2016
NATIVITY OF OUR
LORD



Jesus has come as our Savior!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:1-14	The Word became human
Monday	Luke 2:1-20	The birth of Jesus
Tuesday	Isaiah 62:6-12	God promises salvation
Wednesday	Titus 3:4-7	God sent Jesus
Thursday	Psalms 97	The glory of God's reign
Friday	Hebrews 1:1-12	The Son is superior
Saturday	Psalms 98	Joy to the world
Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	Escape to Egypt

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

God sent Jesus Christ our Savior to give us his Spirit. **Titus 3:6 (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God, you are the giver of all good things. We celebrate that you have given us not only our bodies and possessions, but yourself in Jesus. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, we join in celebration of the gift of Jesus our Savior. Bless our meal, and fill all those gathered here and elsewhere today with Christmas joy, love, and peace. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's peace and favor rest on you, this day and always. (Luke 2:14)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Go Tell It on the
Mountain*



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- What do you know about your own birth or the births of others in your family?
- What is your favorite part of the Bible stories about the birth of Jesus?
- Why was Jesus a special baby? What does his birth mean for you?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Ephesians 6:18.

Make a list of all the people who have sent you Christmas cards, letters, or emails to you. Write each name on a slip of paper. Distribute these to household members and take turns in praying for them. The prayer can be as simple as:

Dear God, please bless [Name] this Christmas and always.

SERVICE



The day after Christmas is traditionally called "Boxing Day" in various parts of the world (e.g. Australia, Britain, Canada, and New Zealand). Boxing Day originated during the Middle Ages. It was the day on which the wealthy landowners gave gifts to their servants and other workers on their lands. It was also the day churches distributed the contents of their alms boxes to the poor. Use this day to prepare "thank you" gifts for people in your community who serve you through their work during the year (e.g. postal workers, police officers, fire fighters, etc.). Have fun delivering your gifts over the next week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the birthday of Jesus. Work together as a household to design and decorate a Happy Birthday card for Jesus. Leave space for each person to write a personal message to him. Place the card underneath your Christmas Tree and join in singing *Happy Birthday* to Jesus.

