

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 passage.

Sunday	John 1:10-18	God with us
Monday	Ezekiel 37:21-28	God will dwell with his people
Tuesday	Zechariah 2:10-13	The Lord will live among you
Wednesday	Colossians 1:15-20	Jesus is the exact likeness of God
Thursday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men worship Christ the King
Friday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations will come to the light
Saturday	Psalms 72	Kings will present him with gifts
Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	Jesus is baptized

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

The Word became a human being and lived here with us. We saw his true glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and all the truth of God have come down to us. *John 1:14* (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

God, thank you for making us your children through Jesus. We praise you for your kindness! Amen

Mealtimes Prayer:

Come Lord Jesus, bless this place, this table full of signs of grace. By your gifts please make us strong to do your will the whole day long. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus dwell in your heart this day. May he bless you with his kindness and show you what is true. Amen.

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CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- If you could become another creature for a day, what would you choose to become?
- God's Son became human and came to live with us here on earth. Why do you think he did this?
- Is it important to you that God's Son became a human? Why?

DEVOTIONS:

Ephesians 1:3 says that through Jesus, God has blessed us with 'every spiritual blessing.' Cut out a figure of a person from a large piece of paper or cardboard. In the center write 'The Word became human and made his home among us.' Then brainstorm all the different ways God has blessed you through Jesus. In your household prayer times give thanks for these blessings.

SERVICE:

Jeremiah 31:13 tells us that God will turn his people's 'mourning into gladness' and will give them 'comfort and joy instead of sorrow.' Do you know of someone who is experiencing a time of sadness? Contact them to let them know that you are thinking of them and care for them. Include them in your household prayers throughout this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

January 6 is the beginning of the church season of Epiphany (meaning appearing, revealing, or making visible). The season celebrates Jesus' revelation to us as the Light of the World and is traditionally associated with a blessing of homes. To do this, prepare a mixture of perfumed water (symbolizing the gifts of the wise men), gather a piece of chalk, and light a candle to symbolize Christ. Go from room to room as a household. Sprinkle each room with the perfumed water and say these words: "Lord Jesus, please bless this room and all that takes place here (name ways in which the room is used). Light this room and our lives with your presence. Amen." When you have gone all through your home, write this inscription above your entrance door in chalk: "20 + C + M + B + 11". The letters C, M and B stand for Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, the names traditionally given to the wise men, and for Christus Mansionem Benedicat, which is Latin for "Christ, bless this home." Keep this inscription above the doorway until Pentecost.

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