

JANUARY 1, 2017
FIRST SUNDAY OF
CHRISTMAS



Jesus the Savior enters a world filled with violence and grief.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	Escape to Egypt
Monday	Jeremiah 31:15-17	Hope for your future
Tuesday	Isaiah 49:13-18	The Lord comforts the people
Wednesday	Isaiah 60:1-6	Nations will come to the light
Thursday	Hosea 11:1-11	Out of Egypt I called my son
Friday	Matthew 2:1-12	Wise men worship Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 148	Praise the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

The LORD was truly merciful, so he rescued his people. He took them in his arms and carried them all those years. **Isaiah 63:9b (CEV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, as you protected the infant Jesus, so rescue us and all those in need, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for being with us and guiding the way, for meeting our needs each and every day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God be loving and merciful to you. May God lift you up and carry you all your life.
(Isaiah 63:9)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
What Child Is This



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time when you experienced pain.
- A time of great sadness came to the town of Bethlehem soon after the visit of the wise men. How have you been comforted in your sadness or pain?
- How does faith in God carry you through times of sadness?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 2:13-15.

While Jesus was still very young, his family fled to Egypt to escape from King Herod. There are many people in our world today who are forced to flee their homes because their countries have become unsafe for them—we call these people refugees. Talk together about what it would be like to be a refugee and leave your friends and possessions behind. Conclude with the following prayer:

Dear God, please comfort and sustain all refugees in our world. Help them through their times of hardship and protect them as you protected the infant Jesus. Amen.

SERVICE



While a young child, Jesus and his parents were refugees and had to flee to Egypt. The plight of refugees continues to this day. Find a way to support local refugees residing in your community or refugees in your host country by creating care packages or simply making a financial donation to help them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalms 148 calls on all of God's creation to offer praise. Read the psalm and then name aloud different parts of God's creation, and give praise to God. For example, "For Norwegian pine, praise the Lord. For crashing waves, praise the Lord. For beautiful Poinsettias, praise the Lord."

Conclude by saying together the Lord's Prayer.



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