

DECEMBER 28, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY
OF CHRISTMAS



The coming of Christ brings joy but causes fear.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Matthew 2:13-23	The escape to Egypt
Monday	Isaiah 63:7-9	God's mercy remembered
Tuesday	Hebrews 2:10-18	Jesus the high priest
Wednesday	Psalms 103:1-5	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Thursday	Isaiah 41:8-13	Israel assured of God's help
Friday	Exodus 1:15–2:10	Moses is born to a slave people
Saturday	Psalms 148	Let all things praise the Lord
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Matthew 2:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear merciful God, bring your comfort and protection to all who experience violence and suffering, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food; may all who journey through life experiencing hunger be blessed with the food you give. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May our Lord and Savior lift you up in love.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*O Little Town of
Bethlehem*

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When is a time you or someone you know needed protection? What happened?
- Is there a time when you have felt God's protection? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 2:13-23.

Christmas time is a wonderful opportunity to sing Christmas hymns, see beautiful lights and contemplate peace on earth. However, Matthew 2 brings us back to the daily anxieties and violence that continue around us. Innocent children are slaughtered because a king fears for his power. The slaughter of innocent children continues to this day because of fearful leaders. The holy family flees to a land that once enslaved God's people, yet there the family is protected. People seek protection today as refugees in historic numbers. Christ's birth is powerful because sin and death remain realities. Christ's birth brings violence from those who fear God's design and rule. The life of the church is the life of faithful and courageous opposition to all powers that are an affront to the salvation of God in Jesus Christ.

Discuss: Where have you seen peace and justice shared with refugees in today's world?

Pray: O, Holy Jesus, your path of love and salvation brings hope to a world that needs your care and grace. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help care for refugees or homeless people near you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Read Psalm 148. As you are reading, highlight or circle the word praise in each verse. Make a list of all the things in God's creation that are praising God throughout Psalm 148 (for example: the sun, the moon, and even sea monsters!). Take a moment to read through the list. Think or talk about what you can add to the list that you praise God for (for example: friends, family, and pets).

Say: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise the Lord! (Psalm 148:1)



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