

a season of expectation

# A D V E N T

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains, &  
the mountains in reply echoing their  
joyous strains: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*Hope*  
O holy night! the stars  
are brightly shining: It  
is the night of the dear  
Savior's birth. Long lay the  
world in sin and error  
pining, Till He appeared  
and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of  
the weary world  
rejoices, For yonder  
breaks a new & glorious  
morn! Fall on your  
knees! O hear the angel  
voices! O night divine,  
O night divine!

divine! Led by the  
light of faith serenely  
beaming, With glowing  
hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly  
gleaming, Here came the Wise  
Men from Orient land, The King  
of kings lay thus in lowly manger.  
In all our trials born to be our  
Friend, He knows our need to  
our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King, before Him  
lowly bend! Behold your King,  
before Him lowly bend! Truly  
He taught us to love one  
another: His law is love &  
His gospel is peace.

*Peace*  
It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song  
of old, from angels bending near the earth to  
touch their harps of gold:  
on the earth, good  
will to men, from  
heaven's all-gracious King, The world  
in solemn stillness lay, to hear the  
angels sing. Still through the  
downy skies they come with  
peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly  
music floats over  
all the weary  
world.

*Joy*  
Joy to the world, the Lord  
is come! Let earth receive  
her King! Let every heart  
prepare Him room, and  
heaven and nature sing,  
& heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and heaven  
and nature sing  
to the earth;  
the Savior reigns  
Let men their songs  
employ, while fields &  
flocks, rocks, hills, & plains,  
repeat the sounding joy;  
repeat the sounding joy.  
He rules the world with  
truth and grace.

*Love*  
O little  
town of  
Bethlehem, how  
still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and  
dreamless sleep the silent  
stars go by. Yet in thy dark  
streets shineth the everlasting  
light; the hopes & fears of all  
the years are met in thee  
tonight. For Christ is born  
of Mary; & gathered all  
above, while mortals sleep,  
the angels keep their watch  
of wondering

O morning stars,  
together proclaim the  
holy birth, & praises sing  
to God the King, peace to  
men on earth.

*Christ*  
Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the  
sight. Glories stream from  
heaven afar, heavenly  
hosts sing, Alleluia  
the Savior is born!







# ADVENT

*Advent* is often likened to the Christian's New Year, as it launches the church's calendar that follows the story of Jesus laid out in the Scriptures.

Advent is a season of waiting and a season of hope.

The Christian practices of generosity, prayer, and fasting often accompany this season as we yoke our bodies, hearts, and spirits with the people of God over the millennia.

A season of waiting with hope in the past alongside Israel as they await rescue from oppression through their promised King and Messiah. It is a season of waiting with hope for the future when Jesus, the true King and Messiah, will deliver the entire creation from the oppression of violence and death once and for all. And it is a season of waiting with hope in the present as we seek the comfort and deliverance of the Holy Spirit in our own circumstances.

We invite you to read and ponder these common Advent passages before, during, or after each Sunday in Advent alongside your families and friends as we wait and hope together for Jesus.



The Advent season is spread over the course of the four Sunday's leading up to Christmas Eve. Each of these Sunday's carries a theme for meditation and Scriptures for pondering.

These themes are:

Week 1 || Hope

Week 2 || Peace

Week 3 || Joy

Week 4 || Love

Christmas Eve || Christ

Each Sunday during Advent, we will hear a teaching centered on one of these themes. The encouragement to you, your family, and your community is to then take this guide and continue meditating and centering your hearts and minds upon the truth in the Scripture for that week.

We want to strongly encourage you to also consider engaging in the traditional forms of Christian practice for this season: prayer, fasting, and generosity.

Choose a regular time for individual prayer and prayer with others. Use this guide as a springboard for your prayers. Consider fasting from a certain type of food or drink until Christmas Eve or abstaining from social media or certain movies or shows. Where can you intentionally practice greater generosity towards others this season? Particularly towards the poor or needy?

Advent is much more than a quiet spiritual pursuit, is a season that has the ability, by God's grace and Spirit, to shape us into greater conformity with Jesus. Let's engage Christ through Advent together.



# HOPE

## Isaiah 2v1-5:

<sup>2</sup> In the last days, the mountain  
of the Lord's house  
will be the highest of all—  
the most important place on  
earth.

It will be raised above the other  
hills,  
and people from all over the  
world will stream there to  
worship.

<sup>3</sup> People from many nations will  
come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the  
mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of Jacob's God.  
There he will teach us his ways,  
and we will walk in his paths.”  
For the Lord's teaching will go  
out from Zion;

his word will go out from  
Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> The Lord will mediate between  
nations

and will settle international  
disputes.

They will hammer their swords  
into plowshares

and their spears into pruning  
hooks.

Nation will no longer fight  
against nation,

nor train for war anymore.

<sup>5</sup> Come, descendants of Jacob,  
let us walk in the light of  
the Lord!



## Psalm 122:

1 I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

2 And now here we are,  
standing inside your gates, O Jerusalem.

3 Jerusalem is a well-built city;  
its seamless walls cannot be breached.

4 All the tribes of Israel—the Lord’s people—  
make their pilgrimage here.

They come to give thanks to the name of the Lord,  
as the law requires of Israel.

5 Here stand the thrones where judgment is given,  
the thrones of the dynasty of David.

6 Pray for peace in Jerusalem.

May all who love this city prosper.

7 O Jerusalem, may there be peace within your walls

and prosperity in your palaces.

8 For the sake of my family and friends, I will say,

“May you have peace.”

9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek what is best for you, O Jerusalem.



## Matthew 24:36-44:

36 “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.

37 “When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. 38 In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. 39 People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.

40 “Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.

42 “So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. 43 Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. 44 You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.

45 “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. 46 If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward.



## Romans 13v11-14:

11 This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living.

13 Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.



# PEACE

## *Isaiah 11:1-10:*

Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—

yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.

<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and

the fear of the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> He will delight in obeying the Lord.

He will not judge by appearance

nor make a decision based on hearsay.

<sup>4</sup> He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited.

The earth will shake at the force of his word,

and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> He will wear righteousness like a belt

and truth like an undergarment.

<sup>6</sup> In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together;

the leopard will lie down with the baby goat.

The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion,

and a little child will lead them all.



<sup>7</sup> The cow will graze near the  
bear.

The cub and the calf will lie  
down together.

The lion will eat hay like a  
cow.

<sup>8</sup> The baby will play safely near  
the hole of a cobra.

Yes, a little child will put its  
hand in a nest of deadly snakes  
without harm.

<sup>9</sup> Nothing will hurt or destroy in  
all my holy mountain,

for as the waters fill the sea,  
so the earth will be filled with  
people who know the Lord.

<sup>10</sup> In that day the heir to David's  
throne

will be a banner of salvation  
to all the world.

The nations will rally to him,  
and the land where he lives  
will be a glorious place.



## Psalm 72<sup>v1-7</sup>. 18-19:

Give your love of justice to the king, O God,

and righteousness to the king's son.

2 Help him judge your people in the right way;

let the poor always be treated fairly.

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for all,

and may the hills be fruitful.

4 Help him to defend the poor,

to rescue the children of the needy,

and to crush their oppressors.

5 May they fear you as long as the sun shines,

as long as the moon remains in the sky.

Yes, forever!

6 May the king's rule be refreshing like spring rain on freshly cut grass,

like the showers that water the earth.

7 May all the godly flourish during his reign.

May there be abundant prosperity until the moon is no more.

18 Praise the Lord God, the God of Israel,

who alone does such wonderful things.

19 Praise his glorious name forever!

Let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and amen



## Matthew 3:1-12:

In those days John the Baptist came to the Judean wilderness and began preaching. His message was, <sup>2</sup>“Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” <sup>3</sup>The prophet Isaiah was speaking about John when he said,

“He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!

Clear the road for him!’”

<sup>4</sup>John’s clothes were woven from coarse camel hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. For food he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. <sup>6</sup>And when they confessed

their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to watch him baptize, he denounced them. “You brood of snakes!” he exclaimed. “Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. <sup>9</sup>Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.



<sup>11</sup> “I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>12</sup> He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.”



## *Romans 15:4-13:*

<sup>4</sup> Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

<sup>5</sup> May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory. <sup>8</sup> Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. <sup>9</sup> He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to

God for his mercies to them. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote:

“For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name.”

<sup>10</sup> And in another place it is written, “Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles.”

<sup>11</sup> And yet again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles. Praise him, all you people of the earth.”

<sup>12</sup> And in another place Isaiah said, “The heir to David's throne will come, and he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him.”

<sup>13</sup> I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.



# JOY

## Isaiah 35<sup>v</sup>1-10:

Even the wilderness and desert  
will be glad in those days.

The wasteland will rejoice and  
blossom with spring crocuses.

<sup>2</sup> Yes, there will be an abundance  
of flowers

and singing and joy!

The deserts will become as green  
as the mountains of Lebanon,

as lovely as Mount Carmel or  
the plain of Sharon.

There the Lord will display his  
glory,

the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> With this news, strengthen  
those who have tired hands,  
and encourage those who  
have weak knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, and do not fear,  
for your God is coming to  
destroy your enemies.

He is coming to save you.”

<sup>5</sup> And when he comes, he will  
open the eyes of the blind  
and unplug the ears of the  
deaf.

<sup>6</sup> The lame will leap like a deer,  
and those who cannot speak  
will sing for joy!

Springs will gush forth in the  
wilderness,

and streams will water the  
wasteland.

<sup>7</sup> The parched ground will  
become a pool,

and springs of water will  
satisfy the thirsty land.

Marsh grass and reeds and  
rushes will flourish



where desert jackals once  
lived.

<sup>8</sup> And a great road will go  
through that once deserted land.

It will be named the Highway  
of Holiness.

Evil-minded people will never  
travel on it.

It will be only for those who  
walk in God's ways;

fools will never walk there.

<sup>9</sup> Lions will not lurk along its  
course,

nor any other ferocious beasts.

There will be no other dangers.

Only the redeemed will walk  
on it.

<sup>10</sup> Those who have been  
ransomed by the Lord will  
return.

They will enter  
Jerusalem singing,

crowned with everlasting joy.

Sorrow and mourning will  
disappear,

and they will be filled with joy  
and gladness.



## Luke 1:46-55:

Of Mary:

“Oh, how my soul praises the Lord.

<sup>47</sup> How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

<sup>48</sup> For he took notice of his lowly servant girl,

and from now on all generations will call me blessed.

<sup>49</sup> For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me.

<sup>50</sup> He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him.

<sup>51</sup> His mighty arm has done tremendous things!

He has scattered the proud and haughty ones.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down princes from their thrones and exalted the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away with empty hands.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel

and remembered to be merciful.

<sup>55</sup> For he made this promise to our ancestors,

to Abraham and his children forever.”



## Matthew 11:2-11:

<sup>2</sup> John the Baptist, who was in prison, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, <sup>3</sup> “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen— <sup>5</sup> the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.” <sup>6</sup> And he added, “God blesses those who do not fall away because of me.”

<sup>7</sup> As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began talking about him to the crowds. “What kind of man did you go into the wilderness to see? Was he a weak reed, swayed by every breath of

wind? <sup>8</sup> Or were you expecting to see a man dressed in expensive clothes? No, people with expensive clothes live in palaces. <sup>9</sup> Were you looking for a prophet? Yes, and he is more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> John is the man to whom the Scriptures refer when they say,

‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, and he will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> “I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!



## James 5:7-10:

<sup>5</sup> You have spent your years on earth in luxury, satisfying your every desire. You have fattened yourselves for the day of slaughter. <sup>6</sup> You have condemned and killed innocent people, who do not resist you.

<sup>7</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. <sup>8</sup> You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup> Don't grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup> For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.



# LOVE

## Isaiah 7:10-16:

<sup>10</sup> Later, the Lord sent this message to King Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask the Lord your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead.”

<sup>12</sup> But the king refused. “No,” he said, “I will not test the Lord like that.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn’t it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well? <sup>14</sup> All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’). <sup>15</sup> By the time this child is old enough to choose what is right and reject what is wrong, he will be eating yogurt and honey. <sup>16</sup> For before the child is that old, the lands of the two kings you fear so much will both be deserted.



## Psalm 80 v1-7. 17-19:

Please listen, O Shepherd of Israel,

you who lead Joseph's descendants like a flock.

O God, enthroned above the cherubim,

display your radiant glory

<sup>2</sup> to Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh.

Show us your mighty power.

Come to rescue us!

<sup>3</sup> Turn us again to yourself, O God.

Make your face shine down upon us.

Only then will we be saved.

<sup>4</sup> O Lord God of Heaven's Armies,

how long will you be angry with our prayers?

<sup>5</sup> You have fed us with sorrow

and made us drink tears by the bucketful.

<sup>6</sup> You have made us the scorn of neighboring nations.

Our enemies treat us as a joke.

<sup>7</sup> Turn us again to yourself, O God of Heaven's Armies.

Make your face shine down upon us.

Only then will we be saved.

<sup>17</sup> Strengthen the man you love, the son of your choice.

<sup>18</sup> Then we will never abandon you again.

Revive us so we can call on your name once more.

<sup>19</sup> Turn us again to yourself, O Lord God of Heaven's Armies.

Make your face shine down upon us.

Only then will we be saved.



## Matthew 1:18-25:

<sup>18</sup> This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

<sup>20</sup> As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!

She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.



## Romans 1:1-7:

This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. <sup>2</sup> God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. <sup>3</sup> The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David's family line, <sup>4</sup> and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

<sup>6</sup> And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.



# CHRIST

## *Isaiah 9:2-4:*

The people who walk in  
darkness

will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of  
deep darkness,

a light will shine.

<sup>3</sup> You will enlarge the nation of  
Israel,

and its people will rejoice.

They will rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest  
and like warriors dividing the  
plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For you will break the yoke of  
their slavery  
and lift the heavy burden from  
their shoulders.

You will break the oppressor's  
rod,

just as you did when you  
destroyed the army of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> The boots of the warrior  
and the uniforms bloodstained  
by war

will all be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire.



<sup>6</sup> For a child is born to us,  
a son is given to us.

The government will rest on his  
shoulders.

And he will be called:  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty  
God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of  
Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His government and its peace  
will never end.

He will rule with fairness and  
justice from the throne of his  
ancestor David  
for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of  
the Lord of Heaven's Armies  
will make this happen!



## *Psalm 96:*

<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the Lord!

Let the whole earth sing to the Lord!

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the Lord; praise his name.

Each day proclaim the good news that he saves.

<sup>3</sup> Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.

Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.

<sup>4</sup> Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!

He is to be feared above all gods.

<sup>5</sup> The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the Lord made the heavens!

<sup>6</sup> Honor and majesty surround him; strength and beauty fill his sanctuary.

<sup>7</sup> O nations of the world, recognize the Lord; recognize that the Lord is glorious and

strong.

<sup>8</sup> Give to the Lord the glory he deserves!

Bring your offering and come into his courts.

<sup>9</sup> Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor.

Let all the earth tremble before him.

<sup>10</sup> Tell all the nations, "The Lord reigns!"

The world stands firm and cannot be shaken.

He will judge all peoples fairly.

<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!

Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!

<sup>12</sup> Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!

Let the trees of the forest sing for joy <sup>13</sup> before the Lord, for he is coming!

He is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with justice,

and the nations with his truth.



## Luke 2:1-20:

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. <sup>4</sup> And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>5</sup> He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there

was no lodging available for them.

<sup>8</sup> That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup> but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup> The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup> And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."



<sup>13</sup> Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in highest heaven,

and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. <sup>18</sup> All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, <sup>19</sup> but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back to their

flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.



## Titus 2:11-14:

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, <sup>13</sup> while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. <sup>14</sup> He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.



*Glory to God  
in the highest*

