

Advent at the Table

A short & simple personal/family devotional resource for use during the season of Advent

Day #14 (Begin with prayer.)

All: O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, this is the day that You have made; let us rejoice and be glad in it! Thank You for bringing us together in worship today. Please bless our time with You and one another, and help us grow in Christian faith, community, and mission: All in the name of Jesus! Amen.

Leader: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

All: the light no darkness can overcome. (John 1)

Leader: Jesus, let Your light scatter the darkness

All: and shine in our hearts today! (2 Corinthians 4)

(Give light to the first two candles on the Advent wreath.)



Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made;

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it! (Psalm 118)

Leader: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,

All: the name of the Lord is to be praised. (Psalm 113)

Leader: Jesus said, "You are the light of the world.

All: A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Leader: People don't light a lamp and then hide it;

All: they put it on its stand and it gives light to all.

Leader: In the same way,

All: let your light shine before others,

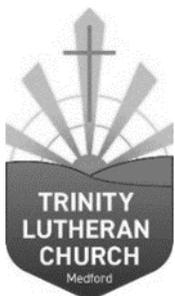
Leader: that they may see your good deeds

All: and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5)



If you'd like, sing the following stanza:

***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 and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.***



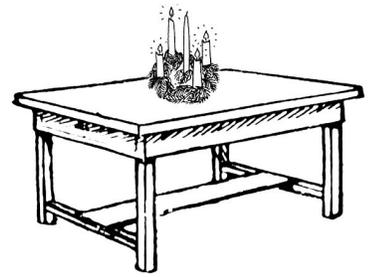
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Leader: Let's pray a blessing on God's Word:

All: Lord, thank You for the gift of grace that is Your Word. Help us to listen, learn, and grow. Holy Spirit, You are welcome here! Please accomplish Your work in us today and always. In Jesus' name. Amen.



From the Bible, read **Luke 2:1-7**. If in a family, try reading verse by verse.

Think/Talk About It

1. What is your all-time favorite story to tell? Why is it your favorite?
2. Luke must have had so much fun when he would tell the story of Jesus' birth. It was important for him to tell it clearly and well (look at the specific details he includes in vv.1-2,4). Because of the census, Bethlehem was very crowded (v.7). What's the most crowded place you've ever been? What was it like?
3. Even though Jesus was God's Son and King of kings, He wasn't exactly born in a palace, was He? Why do you think He entered the world in such a humble way?

Take time to pray to the One who loves to hear you! Remember the 2 Best Prayers We Know: "Thank You..." and "Please help..." Start with those and fill in the rest from there. Then continue by praying:

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Leader: God is good! **All: All the time!**
 Leader: And all the time - **All: God is good!**
 Leader: Go in peace. **All: Serve the Lord. Amen.**



PHILIPPIANS 4:4-8 SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION PROJECT:

Day #14: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds

