

# Advent at the Table

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

Day #18 (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 three 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: You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,

**All: a holy nation, God's special possession,**

Leader: that you may declare the praises of Him

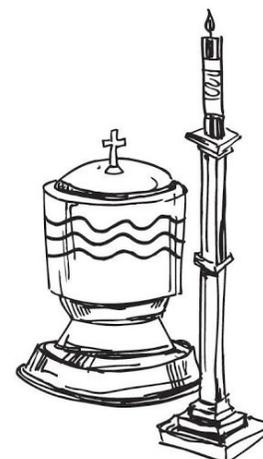
**All: who called you out of darkness and into His wonderful light.**

Leader: Once you were not a people,

**All: but now you are the people of God;**

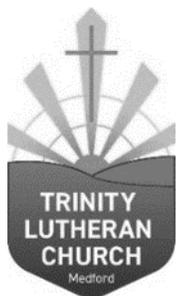
Leader: once you had not received mercy,

**All: but now you have received mercy.** (1 Peter 2)



*If you'd like, sing the following stanza:*

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet  
With anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard  
And angels sing; Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the Son of Mary!**



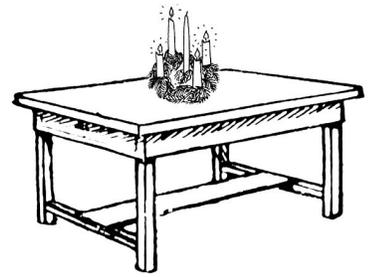
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Leader: Let's pray a blessing on God's Word:

**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 2:19-20**. If in a family, try reading verse by verse.

### Think/Talk About It

1. When you want to have some quiet time, where do you go? What do you do? Do you think it is important to be quiet at certain times? Why or why not?
2. Mary experienced some quiet time after Jesus was born. She "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart" (v.19). What do you think the "these things" in that verse is referring to? What was she treasuring in her heart?
3. What things do you treasure in your own heart? How can you take time to "ponder" them like Mary did so long ago in Bethlehem? Why is this such an important thing for all of us to take time to do?

*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:*

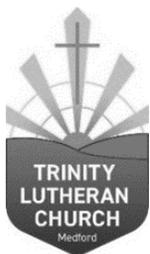
**All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine 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 #18:* 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 in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble,



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