

JANUARY 5, 2025  
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER  
CHRISTMAS



*The light of Christ shines in the darkness.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh
Monday	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Israel will return to its own land
Tuesday	Ephesians 1:3-14	Spiritual blessings in Christ
Wednesday	2 Timothy 1:8-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Thursday	Psalms 18:28-36	David's song of thanks
Friday	John 12:44-50	Jesus came to save the world
Saturday	Psalms 147:12-20	Sing and praise the Lord
Sunday	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	The baptism of Jesus

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*  
**John 1:14 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, our hearts sing with gladness for your grace and truth that blesses us each day through Jesus, the Word that became flesh and lives among us now. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

God of abundant love, we thank you for the gift of this food, a reminder of your care for us each and every day through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

Child of God, may the light of Jesus shine in your heart.



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JANUARY 5, 2025  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*This Little Light of Mine*



### 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 remember being afraid of the dark?
- Jesus Christ is the light of the world. How does knowing this help you when you are in a dark place?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 1:1-18.

From the beginning of his Gospel, John wants us to know that *"the Word became flesh and lived among us"* (v. 14). John's Gospel will guide us to trust that Jesus Christ is the Word of God that has come to bring light into our darkest days and hope for the world that God loves so much. Our darkest days might be the lingering grief over the death of a loved one or a relationship that needs healing. During such moments, what we need most is God's grace that accepts us, God's light that shatters darkness, and God's truth that heals relationships. As children of God, we believe that God's only Son has entered our world and our lives to conquer all the darkness that separates us from the love of God. The true light that came into the world shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overtake it. Thanks be to God for this good, good news.

*Discuss:* Where do you hope for God's healing power over darkness in the world? in your life?

*Pray:* **Gracious God, you turn our sadness into joy; may we remember that you are present in our lives to give us hope, peace, and compassion through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. 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 share Jesus' light with someone who is in a dark place?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Ephesians 1:5, the apostle Paul tells us that before creation began, God *"destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ."* Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we have been adopted as God's children. Design an "Adoption Certificate" that includes your name and these words: (name) is an adopted child of God through Jesus Christ. Draw a dove on the certificate to symbolize the Holy Spirit. You could also include your baptismal dates and a picture. Place the certificate in a place you walk by each day as a reminder of God's love for you.



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