

DECEMBER 22, 2024  
FOURTH SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*God shows love through a humble servant.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 1:39-55	Mary visits Elizabeth
Monday	Micah 5:2-5a	A promised ruler
Tuesday	Luke 2:1-20	Jesus is born
Wednesday	John 1:1-14	The Word becomes flesh
Thursday	Romans 12:9-13	Marks of a true Christian
Friday	Hebrews 10:5-10	Christ's sacrifice once for all
Saturday	Psalms 80:1-7	Prayer for Israel's restoration
Sunday	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant."*  
Luke 1:46-48 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

Dear God, fill us with the Holy Spirit that we may rejoice at the good news of Jesus coming into our lives to bless us with everlasting love. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, bless our lives with love. As we enjoy your gifts of food this day, help us to give thanks for the gift of your coming into our world as Savior. Amen.

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

May God bless you with love.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Come Now, O Prince of Peace*



### 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:

- Where do you look for future predictions about the world?
- Where have you seen or felt that God is active and present the world?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 1:39-55.

We often think of prophecy as a statement that predicts the future. But biblical prophecy is first and foremost a statement of fact about how God is acting in the present moment. Elizabeth prophesies that there is something special about Mary's pregnancy. Even the baby inside of Elizabeth joins in that prophecy by leaping. Mary then prophesies how God is present in her humble life and how God continues to be present and active in the world. The birth of her baby is an amazing act for a poor servant, an act of the God who lifts up the lowly, feeds the hungry, and sends away the rich and powerful empty handed. The coming of the baby Jesus shines a light on the kind of God we have, one who cares for the needy and is stronger than any earthly powers. Throughout the ages, this is the God we need, the one who acts on our behalf, and the one who promises to do wondrous things through Jesus.

*Discuss:* How does Jesus' birth to a poor, humble servant girl show God's love?

*Pray:* **Magnificent God, we praise you for lifting up Mary and for giving us a Savior through your lowly servant. Bless us with humble hearts that are filled with joy for your goodness. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, what can you do to show God's love to someone in need?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The fourth candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizes the theme of love. Discuss or think about the love that Jesus brings to the world. Light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on the Advent Wreath.

*Say:* **"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Mary's song in Luke, also known as the Magnificat, expresses her love for God and revelation that all generations will call her blessed. She rejoices in all that God does for those in need.**

*Pray:* **Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving us so much. Fill our lives with love now and always. Amen.**



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)