

# For Us AND FOR Our SALVATION An Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Experience

# THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY

# REMEMBER

What feels like the celebration of the birth of a baby in a manger is, in reality, the celebration of God's immense power to make the world right. God's greatest display of power is also God's greatest moment of humility. The Creator of the universe became a human infant so that human beings might know why we were created.

# **READ**

PSALM 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.

#### THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR, GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

{CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY}

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.

# **PRAY**

Great and wonderful God, your love and your mercy are new every morning. Do not let us be content with the tired repetition of prayers and carols. Inspire us to join with all your creation in fresh songs of hope and blessing offered to you through Jesus Christ our new-born King. Amen.

# LIGHT

As we light the Christ candle, we renew our confidence in God's redeeming power and love even as we wait for Christ's return. Emmanuel means "God is with us."

Let your goodness, Lord, appear in us.

We are made in your image—help us conform our lives to it.

We cannot imitate your power, majesty, or wonder, nor is it right for us to try.

But your mercy reaches from the heavens.

Your light illuminates the earth.

You have come to us as a small child,

but you have brought the greatest of all gifts-eternal life.

# **SING**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Psalm Prayer from *Psalms for All Seasons*, Grand Rapids: Brazos Press / Faith Alive / Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2012, alt. "Let your goodness, Lord, appear in us" from *The Worship Sourcebook*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker / Faith Alive / Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2013, alt.



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