



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2022



Take your Pulse

What is your most cherished Christmas memory?

Which Christmas was the saddest for you?

Today's Reading

Luke Chapter 2

The most familiar parts of the Christmas story appear here in chapter 2. Jesus is born after his parents travel to Bethlehem for a census. Shepherds come as angels sing in the heavens. But while most of our Christmas story memories end here, there is so much more. Unlike in Matthew's Gospel where there is fear and trembling as Herod is scared of a newborn king and sends soldiers and Joseph hurries his family to Egypt, here Joseph and Mary bring their newborn right to Jerusalem, straight to the temple. The empire is all around them, Jesus is a threat to that empire, and yet they come straight to the heart of the empire and there they have not one, but two prophets praise God openly for this child, who year after year they keep bringing back, right into the very heart of the empire where Jesus is openly a threat.



Start the Thinking

A lot of people were waiting to hear Good News from God. Some of them were even told by God that they would not die until they saw the sign of salvation, the baby boy named Jesus. How might people be waiting to hear Good News from God today?



Conversing with God

O Holy God, in the face of many threats your Son was openly brought right into the heart of a world that would resist the salvation he represents. The world still resists your salvation today. But you are still present in the midst of it. Embolden our witness to your Son that his Good News may continue to bring about the change needed in our weary world. In Jesus' holy name we pray, Amen.



Be blessed

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face, and rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.