

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*

December 25, 2016

Christmas Day

**Isaiah 62:6-12**

**Psalm 97**

**Titus 3:4-7**

**Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20**



*The Miracle of Christmas*

**Don't Miss Christmas!** Object: Some Christmas ornaments or other decorations.

It's here! It's finally here! Christmas is finally here! I just love Christmas, don't you? What do you like best about Christmas? Is it the Christmas tree with its blinking lights? Maybe it's the beautiful music or the delicious Christmas goodies. Perhaps it's Christmas dinner with turkey and dressing and all of the trimmings. For some it might be all of the parties or visiting with family and friends. For many people the best thing about Christmas is the presents — both the ones we give and the ones we receive. Especially the ones we receive!

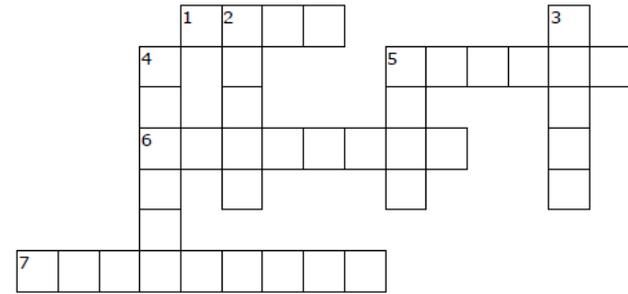
Hmm. . . Can you think of anything I have left out? Oh yes! It's someone's birthday, isn't it? Whose birthday is it? That's right! It is Jesus' birthday. You know, sometimes we get so caught up in all of the decorations, lights, parties, and presents that we miss the real Christmas -- the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Dear Jesus, it is your birthday. We pray that we won't get so caught up in the celebration that we miss the real meaning of Christmas. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia

## Crossword Puzzle



**ACROSS**

1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

**DOWN**

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER

**MANGER BUILDING:** Give the child molding clay or play dough or building blocks and have the child build a manger. Tell the child the Christmas story and ask who was placed in the manger and why. Ask the child to make the sounds that they might hear around the manger for all the animal sounds.

**CHRISTMAS LOOP CHAIN:** Give the child many strips of colored construction paper. The child can write a word from today's Bible lesson or Bible verse on each loop. Then they can form the loops into a chain by placing each loop into the loop next to it. The child can hang their loop chain around their room or on their Christmas tree.

**CHRISTMAS STAR:** Give the child 4 craft sticks. Have the child color the craft sticks and then add tiny drops of gel pen glitter. The craft sticks can be glued in the middle of each stick in the shape of a star.





**Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**  
Luke 2:11