



*For Us*  
AND FOR *Our*  
**SALVATION**

An Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Experience

**THE MISSION OF THE SAVIOR**  
FIRST WEEK OF CHRISTMAS

**REMEMBER**

Christmas is more than just one day or even just one season—the birth of Jesus the Christ changed the world forever. When we question our significance, or the meaning of our life, remember Christmas: “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.” (John 3:16-17, *The Message*)

**READ**

PSALM 8

Lord our God, the whole earth tells the greatness of your name.  
Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Even the babble of infants declares your strength,  
your power to halt the enemy and the avenger.

I see your handiwork in the heavens:  
the moon and the stars you set in place.

What is humankind that you should remember us,  
the human race that you should care for us?

You treat us like gods, dressing us in glory and splendor.  
You give us charge of all the earth, laying all at our feet:

cattle and sheep, wild beasts, birds of the sky, fish of the sea,  
every swimming creature.

Lord our God, the whole world tells the greatness of your name.

## PRAY

Cosmic God, heavenly Father,  
you alone know why you love your people,  
and in you alone can we love one another.  
By your Spirit, help us find our true worth,  
not in other created things, but in you.  
Keep us faithful in our care for your creation  
and in our compassion for your people  
until Jesus, creation's Redeemer, returns.  
We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## LIGHT

As we light these five candles, symbolizing God's promises and their fulfillment, we renew our confidence in God's plan and purpose for our life, even as we wait for Christ's return. Emmanuel means "God is with us."

God of love,  
open our hearts and minds to the good and saving news of Jesus Christ,  
that all who feel insecure, or empty, or aimless,  
may find in you all they need today and every day—  
and much more besides. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## SING

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Psalm 8 from *The Psalter*, Chicago: LTP, 1998

Psalm Prayer from *Psalms for All Seasons*, Grand Rapids: Brazos Press / Faith Alive / Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2012.

"God of love" from *The Worship Sourcebook*, 2nd edition. Grand Rapids: Baker / Faith Alive / Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, 2013. alt.



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