

The Promised One

Each year, we celebrate a season called Advent for the four weeks before Christmas. During Advent, we remember how the people of Israel waited thousands of years for a Savior. We remember how Mary and her husband, Joseph, waited for Jesus to be born. Like them, we now wait for the coming of Jesus.

The Son of God came to us as a little baby! We celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25, Christmas day. But our celebration doesn't stop there! The Christmas season includes four Sundays after Christmas as we recall the stories about Jesus when he was a baby, a young boy, and a young man.

You can read the stories in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke in the New Testament. They tell us Jesus was born

in Bethlehem while Mary and Joseph were visiting there.

On the Feast of the Holy Family, the Sunday after Christmas, we learn how Jesus lived and grew up at home with Mary and Joseph. He loved them and learned from them and obeyed them.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, during the Christmas season, we remember the story of the three wise men who traveled from the East to see Jesus.

We end the Christmas season with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. He was a young man when John the Baptist baptized him in the Jordan River. When Jesus was baptized, people saw the Holy Spirit come upon him in the

form of a dove, and they heard God the Father say, "This is my beloved Son. My favor rests on him."



Did You Know?

The word *Emmanuel* means God-with-us. It is a name we use for Jesus.

During Advent, we pray and sing, "O come, O come, Emmanuel."