

DECEMBER 25, 2014



# SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)



ISAIAH 62:11–12

PSALM 97:1, 6, 11–12

TITUS 3:4–7

LUKE 2:15–20

## REFLECTION

When you were a little kid were you ever in a Christmas pageant? Do you remember the excitement? The bathrobe and tinsel garland costumes? The delight of the adults watching as each piece of the Christmas story unfolded? Even if you haven't had that particular theatrical experience you know the cast of characters. Most of them are in this reading: Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the angels, the shepherds. One of the important themes of Luke's account of the Gospel is that once Jesus comes on the scene there are no outsiders. No one is a reject anymore. What can get lost in all the "Christmas story cuteness" is the radical idea that shepherds—not emperors or priests or anyone important—are the ones who get the big news from the heavenly messengers. Angels, *angels!*, come to visit these lowly, poor, of-no-importance laborers and deliver the most important news of all time—Jesus the Savior, Messiah and Lord has come into the world!



You might want to watch this adorable video on the Christmas pageant, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWq60oyrHVQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWq60oyrHVQ), or "The Digital Story of the Nativity," [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkHN NPM7pJA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkHN NPM7pJA), to get in the mood.

## ACTION

Take a few minutes alone today—you may have to take a walk or hide out in the bathroom if you've got a house full of relatives visiting—and thank God for sending Jesus into the world.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What's your favorite Christmas movie and why?
- When have you felt like an outsider?