

GOSPEL MESSAGE

December 25, 2025

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, CHRISTMAS DAY

Ponder Anew

The story of Christmas is loud, and chaotic, and surprising, and even terrifying. And then there's Mary. She seems so steady, so calm. The shepherds show up, full of energy and wonder and questions. They have so much to say to this small family about what has happened to them. What does Mary do? She treasures their words and ponders them in her heart.

By the time we get to Christmas Day, the hustle and bustle is over in some households. In other households, the hustle and bustle is just beginning, but the lead-up is over. The season of anticipation—both liturgical and commercial—is over; this baby has arrived.

What is it that we treasure? What is this season calling us to ponder in our hearts? Maybe we, too, have had a loud, and chaotic, and surprising, and even terrifying season. Even if that's not the case, Christmas Day serves as a hinge between the build-up of Advent and everything that comes afterward, now that God has been born to us, incarnate in the flesh of a baby.

Is anything at all different now? Does this baby change anything in our day-to-day lives—our relationships, finances, priorities, work? Does this annual reminder that we worship a God who came to us *as one of us* make a difference in our lives? Does it shift our perspectives? Does it crack open new understandings of the world around us, or invite us to be curious in ways we might not be otherwise? Does our understanding of this incarnation cause us to make decisions in a new light?

What are you looking to treasure on the hinge-point of this Christmas Day? What might you ponder anew?

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