



Midweek Meditation



"The Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God.'" Nehemiah 8:9

The Christmas holiday is almost upon us. But sadly, it will not be a holiday for most. The word holiday is formed by putting the words *holy* and *day* together. So a holiday is really a holy day. Martin Luther reminds us that the only holy thing on earth is the Word of God, and that when God's Word is heard, read, and meditated upon, the day becomes holy on account of the Word. That day was the seventh day for God's people of old. The day was moved to Sunday for us because of our Lord's resurrection on that day. Sunday, therefore, is a holy day for us who come to God's house to hear His holy words.

Most in our country will rise on Christmas morning, open gifts, enjoy family time, and eat hearty meals. But the one thing which makes Christmas a holiday will be lacking for most. They will not come to gladly hear God's Word and meditate upon it. Christmas, therefore, is not a holiday for them. It's just a day. Not sacred, but profane.

How blessed are we who are drawn by the Holy Spirit to hear the Word of God on Christmas Day, making it a true holiday. We, too, will open gifts, enjoy family time, and eat hearty meals. But these do not take priority over hearing the Word. We are God's holy people in Christ. As people declared holy, we celebrate the birth of our Savior in the holy house, hearing holy words, on the Christmas holy day.

O Holy Spirit, draw me to the Father's house on Christmas Day to hear Your holy Word. This is where I belong as one of Christ's holy people. And this will make Christmas, for me, a true and joyful holiday. Amen.