

December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
3<sup>rd</sup> Midweek Advent Service



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word  
We gather around the Word (worship)  
We grow in the Word (education)  
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*

# EVENING PRAYER

*Page 215 of Christian Worship*

**HYMN: O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU**

**324**

*Sung in place of the song on page 216.*

## PSALM 71

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.
- <sup>2</sup> Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;  
turn your ear to me and save me.
- <sup>3</sup> Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;  
give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.
- <sup>4</sup> Deliver me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of evil and cruel men.
- <sup>5</sup> For you have been my hope, O Sovereign LORD,  
my confidence since my youth.
- <sup>6</sup> From birth I have relied on you;  
you brought me forth from my mother's womb.  
I will ever praise you.
- <sup>7</sup> I have become like a portent to many,  
but you are my strong refuge.
- <sup>8</sup> My mouth is filled with your praise,  
declaring your splendor all day long.
- <sup>9</sup> Do not cast me away when I am old;  
do not forsake me when my strength is gone.
- <sup>10</sup> For my enemies speak against me;  
those who wait to kill me conspire together.
- <sup>11</sup> They say, "God has forsaken him;  
pursue him and seize him,  
for no one will rescue him."
- <sup>12</sup> Be not far from me, O God;  
come quickly, O my God, to help me.
- <sup>13</sup> May my accusers perish in shame;  
may those who want to harm me  
be covered with scorn and disgrace.
- <sup>14</sup> But as for me, I will always have hope;  
I will praise you more and more.
- <sup>15</sup> My mouth will tell of your righteousness,

- of your salvation all day long,  
though I know not its measure.
- 16 I will come and proclaim your mighty acts, O Sovereign LORD;  
I will proclaim your righteousness, yours alone.
- 17 Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,  
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
- 18 Even when I am old and gray,  
do not forsake me, O God,  
till I declare your power to the next generation,  
your might to all who are to come.
- 19 Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God,  
you who have done great things.  
Who, O God, is like you?
- 20 Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter,  
you will restore my life again;  
from the depths of the earth  
you will again bring me up.
- 21 You will increase my honor  
and comfort me once again.
- 22 I will praise you with the harp  
for your faithfulness, O my God;  
I will sing praise to you with the lyre,  
O Holy One of Israel.
- 23 My lips will shout for joy  
when I sing praise to you—  
I, whom you have redeemed.
- 24 My tongue will tell of your righteous acts all day long,  
for those who wanted to harm me  
have been put to shame and confusion.

## READING

## LUKE 1:57-80

<sup>57</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>60</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

<sup>61</sup> They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

<sup>62</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” <sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> The neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people

were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup> “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come and has redeemed his people.

<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn  
of salvation for us

<sup>70</sup> in the house of his servant David  
(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

<sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate us—

<sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
<sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,

and to enable us to serve him without fear  
<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

<sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,

<sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

<sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

<sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel.

***HYMN: HARK THE GLAD SOUND! THE SAVIOR COMES***

***313***

**SERMON ON LUKE 1:57-80**

***HYMN: LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD***

***315***

*The liturgy continues on page 221 of Christian Worship.*

***HYMN: JESUS, TENDER SHEPHERD, HEAR ME***

***793***