

December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
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).*



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**Wisconsin Synod**  
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### **Welcome!**

We welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)

### **ORATIO, MEDITATIO, TENTATIO**

In 1539, Martin Luther wrote about understanding spiritual truth. He describes the use of three rules based upon Psalm 119. The rules, Oratio (prayer), Meditatio (meditation), and Tentatio (testing), describe the life of faith. This is a cycle that begins with prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit, concentrates on the reception of the Holy Spirit through meditation on God's Word, and results in spiritual attack. This in turn leads a person back to further prayer and intensified meditation. May God lead us all through this cycle as we yearn to understand scriptural truth more deeply.

**HYMN: TAKE HEART**

829

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

**PSALM 119:65-72**

- <sup>65</sup> Do good to your servant according to your word, O Lord.  
<sup>66</sup> Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands.  
<sup>67</sup> Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.  
<sup>68</sup> You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees.  
<sup>69</sup> Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies,  
I keep your precepts with all my heart.  
<sup>70</sup> Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law.  
<sup>71</sup> It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.  
<sup>72</sup> The law from your mouth is more precious to me  
than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.

**READINGS****2 Peter 3:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

<sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

<sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

## **MATTHEW 1:18–25**

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

<b><i>HYMN: AFFLICTED SAINT, TO CHRIST DRAW NEAR</i></b>
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<b><i>867</i></b>
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## **SERMON ON Psalm 119:65-72**

*The liturgy continues with the “**Song of Mary**” on page 220 of Christian Worship.*

<b><i>HYMN: ABIDE WITH ME</i></b>
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<b><i>783</i></b>
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