

December 4th, 2024
1st 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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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.

EVENING PRAYER

Page 215 of Christian Worship

<i>HYMN: JOYOUS LIGHT OF HEAVENLY GLORY</i>
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<i>785</i>

Sung in place of the song on page 216.

PSALM 119:145-152

- ¹⁴⁵ I call with all my heart; answer me, O LORD, and I will obey your decrees.
¹⁴⁶ I call out to you; save me and I will keep your statutes.
¹⁴⁷ I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.
¹⁴⁸ My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.
¹⁴⁹ Hear my voice in accordance with your love; preserve my life, O LORD, according to your laws.
¹⁵⁰ Those who devise wicked schemes are near, but they are far from your law.
¹⁵¹ Yet you are near, O LORD, and all your commands are true.
¹⁵² Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever.

READING

MATTHEW 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea ² and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the desert,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’ ”

⁴ John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. ⁶ Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹ And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

SERMON ON Psalm 119:145-152

976 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; my spir - it
2 Hence - forth shall peo - ple call me blest, for great things
3 His mer - cy is on all who fear, who trust in
4 He brings down rul - ers from their seat and rais - es



shall in God re - joice. My hum - ble state he did re - gard,
he has done for me. The might - y God is now my guest;
him from age to age. His arm of strength to all is near;
those of low de - gree. He fills the hun - gry souls with meat;



ex - alt - ing me by gra - cious choice.
the Ho - ly One has set me free.
the proud he scat - ters, though they rage.
the rich de - part in pov - er - ty.

- 5 He helped his servant Israel, rememb'ring his eternal grace,
as from of old he did foretell to Abraham and all his race.
- 6 So praise with me the Holy One, who comes in all humility.
To our Redeemer, God's own Son, be glory in eternity! Amen.

TEXT: 1r, John T. Mueller, 1885-1967; alt.2, Hermann Bornius, c. 1504-1548
Tune: plainsong, c. 9th cent.
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The liturgy continues on page 221 of Christian Worship.