

## Psalm 71

4th Sunday Year C

Prayer during the Day Monday Week 3

This is a supplication with an abundant amount of praise. The psalmist is an old man who is pleading for God's help. As an old man he plays an important role in the community and he senses that he has more to do in carrying out his responsibility to hand on the traditions to the young. He does not complain of sickness, only that his powers are diminishing and that there are people who want to see him dead. His trust in God and his maintaining of hope as an old man is impressive. There is no title.

**<sup>1</sup>In you, YHWH\*, I seek refuge;  
do not let me be put to shame for  
ever.**

**<sup>2</sup>In your justice\* set me free.  
Make me safe. Come close to hear  
me. Save me.**

**<sup>3</sup>Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress, to save\* me.  
You are indeed my rock and my  
fortress.**

**<sup>4</sup>Rescue me, O my God, from the  
hand of the wicked,  
from the grasp of criminals and  
the violent.**

**<sup>5</sup>For you, O Lord, are my hope\*.  
I have placed my trust\* in you,  
YHWH, from my youth.**

**<sup>6</sup>Upon you I have leaned from  
my birth; it was you who took me  
from my mother's womb.  
My praise is continually of you.**

**<sup>7</sup>Many look on me as something  
special, for you are a strong for-  
tress for me.**

**<sup>8</sup>My mouth is full of your praise.  
I can speak only good of you all  
day long.**

**<sup>9</sup>Do not cast me off now that I am  
old; do not forsake me now my  
strength is spent.**

The opening words are almost identical with the opening words of Psalm 31:

In you, YHWH, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your justice make me safe.  
Come close to hear me;  
come quickly to rescue me.  
Be my rock of refuge,  
a strong fortress that saves me.  
You are indeed my rock and my fortress.

– Psalm 31:1-3

Placed on your lap from my birth, since my  
mother bore me you have been my God.

– Psalm 22:10

He is living proof that YHWH is a secure ref-  
uge.

## Praise of God's justice

Do not stand far off. Trouble is near  
and I have no one to assist me.

– Psalm 22:11

But you, YHWH, do not stand aside!  
O my strength, come quickly to my aid!

– Psalm 22:19

YHWH, you have seen; do not be silent!  
O Lord, do not be far from me!

– Psalm 35:22

Do not forsake me, YHWH; O my God, do not be  
far from me.

– Psalm 38:21

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them! I try to count them  
– they are more than the sand; I come to the end  
– I am still with you.

– Psalm 139:17-18

Where can we find the strength to praise him?  
For he is greater than all his works.  
Awesome is the Lord and very great,  
and marvelous is his power.  
Glorify the Lord and exalt him  
as much as you can, for he surpasses even that.  
When you exalt him, summon all your strength,  
and do not grow weary,  
for you cannot praise him enough.  
Who has seen him and can describe him?  
Or who can extol him as he is?  
Many things greater than these lie hidden,  
for I have seen but few of his works.  
For the Lord has made all things,  
and to the godly he has given wisdom.

– Sirach 43:28-33

<sup>10</sup>**For my enemies speak ill of  
me, those who want my end  
conspire together.**

<sup>11</sup>**They say, 'God has forsaken  
him, pursue him, seize him,  
for there is no one to defend  
him.'**

<sup>12</sup>**O God, do not stay far from  
me; O my God, come quickly  
to help me!**

<sup>13</sup>**Let my accusers be put to  
shame and consumed;  
let those who seek to hurt me  
be covered with scorn and  
disgrace.**

<sup>14</sup>**I will continue to hope\*, and  
will praise you yet more and  
more.**

<sup>15</sup>**My mouth will tell of your  
justice\*, of your saving help\*  
all day long.**

**Inadequate as my words are,**

<sup>16</sup>**I will praise the mighty  
deeds of the Lord YHWH, I  
will praise your justice\*, yours  
alone.**

<sup>17</sup>O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

<sup>18</sup>Now in old age and gray hairs,  
O God, do not forsake me,  
so that I can proclaim your might and your power  
to the next generation:

<sup>19</sup>your power and your justice\*, O God,  
which reach to the heavens,  
and the great things that you have done.  
O God, who can compare with you?

<sup>20</sup>You have made me pass through many troubles and calamities.  
You will once again cause me to recover;  
you will bring me back once more from the depths of the earth .

<sup>21</sup>You will increase my honour, and comfort me once again.

<sup>22</sup>I, in my turn, will praise you with the harp  
for your faithfulness, O my God.  
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,  
O Holy One of Israel.

<sup>23</sup>My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you  
with all my being\*, for you have rescued me.

<sup>24</sup>All day long my tongue will talk of your justice,  
for those who tried to do me harm  
have been put to shame and disgraced.