

Monday, December 21, 2020

+ OPENING CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER

O God, open our lips,  
**and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**  
From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**we praise your name, O God.**

+ REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

By Word and water God renews us this day  
in the living fountain of God's grace,  
and raises us with Christ Jesus  
to live a new life in the Spirit.

\* OSL

**Satisfy us in the morning**  
**with your steadfast love, O God,**  
**that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.**

+ MORNING HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel.  
The darkness of this earth dispel.  
**Bring light and justice here below**  
that we in paths of righteousness may go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
**Emmanuel shall come to earth; let love dispel all fear.**

OSL

+ MORNING PRAYER

The Holy One be with you;  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

We give you hearty thanks for the rest of the past night and  
for the gift of a new day, with its opportunities of pleasing  
you. Grant that we may so pass its hours in the perfect  
freedom of your service, that at eventide we may again  
give thanks unto you. **Amen.**

[UM Book of Worship]

+ Luke 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup> Mary said:

With all my heart

I praise the Lord,

<sup>47</sup> and I am glad

because of God my Savior.

<sup>48</sup> He cares for me,

his humble servant.

From now on,

all people will say

God has blessed me.

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<sup>49</sup> God All-Powerful has done  
great things for me,

and his name is holy.

<sup>50</sup> He always shows mercy  
to everyone

who worships him.

<sup>51</sup> The Lord has used  
his powerful arm

to scatter those  
who are proud.

<sup>52</sup> He drags strong rulers  
from their thrones

and puts humble people  
in places of power.

<sup>53</sup> God gives the hungry  
good things to eat,  
and sends the rich away  
with nothing.

<sup>54</sup> He helps his servant Israel  
and is always merciful  
to his people.

<sup>55</sup> The Lord made this promise  
to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his family forever!

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,  
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ WORD: Hebrews 9:5b-14 CEV

Now isn't the time to go into detail about these things. <sup>6</sup> But this is how everything was when the priests went each day into the first part of the tent to do their duties. <sup>7</sup> However, only the high priest could go into the second part of the tent, and he went in only once a year. Each time he carried blood to offer for his sins and for any sins that the people had committed without meaning to.

<sup>8</sup> All of this is the Holy Spirit's way of saying that no one could enter the most holy place while the tent was still the place of worship. <sup>9</sup> This also has a meaning for today. It shows that we cannot make our consciences clear by offering gifts and sacrifices. <sup>10</sup> These rules are merely about such things as eating and drinking and ceremonies for washing ourselves. And rules about physical things will last only until the time comes to change them for something better.

<sup>11</sup> Christ came as the high priest of the good things that are now here. He also went into a much better tent that wasn't made by humans and that doesn't belong to this world.

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<sup>12</sup> Then Christ went once for all into the most holy place and freed us from sin forever. He did this by offering his own blood instead of the blood of goats and bulls.

<sup>13</sup> According to the Law of Moses, those people who become unclean are not fit to worship God. Yet they will be considered clean, if they are sprinkled with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a sacrificed calf.

<sup>14</sup> But Christ was sinless, and he offered himself as an eternal and spiritual sacrifice to God. That's why his blood is much more powerful and makes our consciences clear. Now we can serve the living God and no longer do things that lead to death.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH**

We bless you, Adonai, God of *Israel*,  
for you come to visit us and ransom us from *bondage*.  
You have brought forth a strong *De-liverer*  
in the house of your child *David*.

**This is what your holy prophets an-nounced:  
deliverance from enemies  
and from the hand of all who hate *us*;  
mercy a-mong our *ancestors*,  
and remembrance of your ho-ly *covenant*.**

This is the promise you swore to

our an-cestor, *Abraham*,  
to make us un-a-*fraid*,  
to rescue us from our *enemies*,  
to serve before you, holy and just,  
all the days of our *lives*.

**And this, my little child,  
shall be called prophet of the Most *High*,  
going before you, Adonai, to pre-pare your *paths*,  
making your people know de-*liverance*  
by the forgiveness of their *sins*.**

**Through your merciful compassions, God our *God*,  
the dawn from on high shall *visit us*,  
to shine on those kept in dungeons  
and the shadows of *death*  
and to guide our feet onto the path of *peace*.**

LUKE 1:68-79

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,  
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

+ **COMMEMORATION: THOMAS**

“Thomas was among the twelve whom Jesus called and commissioned to heal the sick and proclaim the gospel. Though all four gospels mention him, John’s gospel alone features him as a speaker interacting with his fellow disciples and Jesus. In three vignettes we catch a glimpse of Thomas and perceive through the evangelist’s characterization the earnest, struggling faith of this early follower of Jesus.

According to Eusebius, Thomas carried the gospel to Parthia. The apocryphal Acts of Thomas gives a legendary account of mission work and martyrdom in India. According to the Acts he worked in India as a carpenter and builder and so in Roman Catholic tradition he is the patron saint of builders and architects.”

\* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: THOMAS**

Holy Triune God, Thomas recalls our journey toward faith. As he asked to see you, by baptismal faith bring us to yourself. As he refused secondhand experience, by the

means of grace bring us to the true joy in Christ. As he confessed you triumphantly, so open our lips to say, “My Lord and my God.” Amen.

\* For All the Saints

+ **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,  
***and also with you.***

Let us pray: *(pray for those on your heart today)*

+ **FOR HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL**

***For those we have lifted up today, may God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.***

+ **FOR VICTIMS OF ADDICTION**

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost

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their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. Amen.

+ FOR PEACE

***Almighty God, kindle, we ask you, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

***Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.***

+ CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father,  
You have brought us in safety to this new day:  
preserve us with your mighty power,  
that we may not fall into sin,  
nor be overcome by adversity;  
and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

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+ **BLESSING**

May the road rise to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine warm upon your face,  
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of his hand. **Amen.**

(TRADITIONAL GAELIC PRAYER)

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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