Saturday, December 12, 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, Desire of nations, bind, All peoples in one heart and mind; *Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;* Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! *Emmanuel shall come to earth; let love dispel all fear.*

+ MORNING PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God,

in whom we live and move and have our being, you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see life clearly and, in your service, find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Augustine

+ Psalm 126 NRSV

The Lord has done great <u>things</u> for us, and <u>we</u> re-joiced.

¹ When the LORD restored the <u>fortunes</u> of *Zion*, we were like <u>those</u> who *dream*.

² Then our mouth was <u>filled</u> with *laughter*,

and our tongue with <u>shouts</u> of *joy*; then it was said <u>among</u> the *nations*,

"The LORD has done great <u>things</u> for *them*." ³ The LORD has done great <u>things</u> for *us*, and <u>we</u> re-*joiced*.

⁴ Restore our <u>fortunes</u>, O *LORD*, like the watercourses <u>in</u> the *Negeb*.
⁵ May those who <u>sow</u> in *tears* reap with <u>shouts</u> of *joy*.
⁶ Those who go out weeping, bearing the <u>seed</u> for *sowing*, shall come home with shouts of joy,

carry-<u>ing</u> their sheaves.

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

The Lord has done great <u>things</u> for us, and <u>we</u> re-joiced.

Silence

+ WORD: Matthew 21:28-32 NRSV

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

> Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God!

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

We bless you, Adonai, <u>God</u> of *Israel*, for you come to visit us and ransom us from *bondage*.

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You have brought forth a <u>strong</u> 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 <u>holy</u> and *blessed*, one God, now and for-<u>ever</u>, A-*men*.

+ STATEMENT OF FAITH: THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven. and sits at the right hand of the Father Almighty. From there he shall come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints. the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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+ PRAYERS

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

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

+ PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with those we lift today, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that with health being renewed, all may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

+ PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

+ PRAYERS FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

+ <u>A COLLECT FOR SATURDAYS</u>

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon

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earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.*

+ BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. *Amen.* NUMBERS 6:24–26

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at Elwood United Methodist Church

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