

Saturday, December 19, 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! OSL
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 89:1-4, 19-26 NRSV

You have set the crown on one who is mighty,
You have exalted one chosen from the people.

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, for-ever,
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all
gen-er-ations.

² I declare that your steadfast love is es-tab-lished for-
ever;

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your faithfulness is as firm as the *heavens*.

³ You said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen *one*,
I have sworn to my ser-vant *David*:

⁴ ‘I will establish your des-centants for-*ever*,
and build your throne for all gen-er-ations.’” *Selah*

¹⁹ Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and
said:

“I have set the crown on one who is mighty,
I have exalted one chosen from the *people*.

²⁰ I have found my ser-vant *David*;
with my holy oil I have a-noint-ed *him*;

²¹ my hand shall always re-main with *him*;
my arm also shall strength-en *him*.

²² The enemy shall not out-wit *him*,
the wicked shall not hum-ble *him*.

²³ I will crush his foes be-fore *him*
and strike down those who hate *him*.

²⁴ My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with *him*;
and in my name his horn shall be ex-*alted*.

²⁵ I will set his hand on the *sea*
and his right hand on the *rivers*.

²⁶ He shall cry to me, ‘You are my *Father*,
my God, and the Rock of my sal-*vation*!’

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

***You have set the crown on one who is mighty,
You have exalted one chosen from the people.***

Silence

+ **WORD:** John 7:40-52 NRSV

⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some in the crowd said,
“This is really the prophet.” ⁴¹ Others said, “This is the
Messiah.” But some asked, “Surely the Messiah does not
come from Galilee, does he? ⁴² Has not the scripture said
that the Messiah is descended from David and comes
from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?” ⁴³ So
there was a division in the crowd because of him. ⁴⁴ Some
of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on
him.

⁴⁵ Then the temple police went back to the chief priests
and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest
him?” ⁴⁶ The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken

like this!" ⁴⁷ Then the Pharisees replied, "Surely you have not been deceived too, have you? ⁴⁸ Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? ⁴⁹ But this crowd, which does not know the law—they are accursed." ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, ⁵¹ "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?" ⁵² They replied, "Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee."

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*.

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+ **COMMEMORATION:**

WILLIAM WESLEY VAN ORSDEL, "BROTHER VAN"

"Originally from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Van Orsdel came to Fort Benton, Montana in 1872. Arriving on June 30, he preached that afternoon in a local saloon where he received the nickname "Brother Van" which stayed with him the rest of his life.

For forty -seven years, Brother Van set the tone for Methodism in Montana. He held a service almost everyday and traveled some 15,000 miles a year. One historian has observed, "For the small Methodist constituency in Montana to maintain a college, a hospital, and a children's home and school during the frontier days was all but impossible, and yet Brother Van through faith, prayer, persistence and sacrifice somehow managed to convince the people that it could be done." [xlv]

He was loved by the Indians of Montana who gave him the name Great Heart. In 1873, they took him on his first buffalo hunt, an event reproduced in a painting by the cowboy artist Charles M. Russell. Russell, affectionately recalling in a letter the first time he met Brother Van, wrote in his rough prose, "I have met you many times since that, Brother Van, sometimes in lonely places, but you never

were lonsun or alone, for a man with seared hands and feet stood beside you and near him there is no hate, so all you met loved you."

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT:**

WILLIAM WESLEY VAN ORSDEL, "BROTHER VAN"

Holy and merciful God, in your love for the world you raised William Wesley Van Orsdel to be an evangelist, a herald of the good news: strengthen and guide those entrusted with the proclamation of your Word that as they make known your redeeming love we may heed and receive their glad tidings, through Jesus Christ our lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

+ **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.

+ PRAYER FOR THE CHOICE OF

FIT PERSONS FOR THE MINISTRY

O God, who led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR THOSE WE LOVE

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ A COLLECT FOR SATURDAYS

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

+ HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit,
That my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,
That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,
To defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,
That I always may be holy. 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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