

Thursday, December 10, 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, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide your heavenly home.  
**Make safe the path to endless day,**  
To hell's destruction, close the way.  
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:

New every morning is your love, great God of light,  
and all day long you are working for good in the world.  
Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our  
neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son,  
our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

+ **Psalm 126** NRSV

**The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we re-joyced.**

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

<sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with *laughter*,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then it was said among the *nations*,

“The LORD has done great things for *them*.”

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

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the *Negeb*.

<sup>5</sup> May those who sow in *tears*  
reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping,  
bearing the seed for *sowing*,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carry-ing their *sheaves*.

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

***The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we re-joiced.***

Silence

+ **WORD**: **Philippians 3:7-11** NRSV

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard  
as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard  
everything as loss because of the surpassing value of

knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have  
suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as  
rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in  
him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes  
from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ,  
the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to  
know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the  
sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his  
death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the  
dead.

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*;**

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**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 MERTON**

Thomas Merton was born in 1915 in France, of American parents. In 1939 he joined the Roman Catholic Church, and taught at St Bonaventure for the next two years. In 1941 he entered the Trappist monastery near Louisville, Kentucky. The Trappists are (or were before Vatican II) an extremely strict Roman Catholic monastic order, devoted to communal prayer (they spend at least four hours a day in chapel, chanting the praises of God), to private prayer and contemplation, to study, and to manual labor. Except for those whose special duties require otherwise, they are vowed not to speak except in praise of God. Thus, when not singing in chapel, they are silent.

Toward the end of his life, Merton developed an interest in Buddhist and other Far Eastern approaches to mysticism and contemplation, and their relation to Christian approaches. He was attending an international conference on Christian and Buddhist monasticism in Bangkok, Thailand, when he was accidentally electrocuted on 10 December 1968.

*[by James Kiefer](#)*

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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+ **COLLECT: THOMAS MERTON**

O God, who by your Holy Spirit give to some the word of wisdom, to others the word of knowledge, and to others the word of faith: We praise your Name for the gifts of grace manifested in your servant Thomas Merton, and we pray that your Church may never be destitute of such gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*[by James Kiefer](#)*

+ **PRAYERS**

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

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

+ SILENT PRAYER

+ **PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE**

***Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be***

***strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

+ **PRAYER FOR AGRICULTURE**

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

+ **PRAYERS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RACE**

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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+ 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.***

+ 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

<sup>16</sup> And I pray that he would unveil within you the unlimited riches of his glory and favor until supernatural strength floods your innermost being with his divine might and explosive power.

<sup>17</sup> Then, by constantly using your faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside you, and the resting place of his love will become the very source and root of your life.

Ephesians 3:16-17

*The Passion Translation*

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## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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