

Thursday, December 17, 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 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.

<sup>2</sup> I declare that your steadfast love is es-tab-lished for-  
ever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

12/17/20

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

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

<sup>19</sup> 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*.

<sup>20</sup> I have found my ser-vant *David*;

with my holy oil I have a-noint-ed *him*;

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

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

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

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

<sup>25</sup> I will set his hand on the *sea*  
and his right hand on the *rivers*.

<sup>26</sup> 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: Hebrews 1:1-4 CEB**

In the past, God spoke through the prophets to our ancestors in many times and many ways. <sup>2</sup> In these final days, though, he spoke to us through a Son. God made his Son the heir of everything and created the world through him. <sup>3</sup> The Son is the light of God’s glory and the imprint of God’s being. He maintains everything with his powerful message. After he carried out the cleansing of people from their sins, he sat down at the right side of the highest majesty. <sup>4</sup> And the Son became so much greater than the other messengers, such as angels, that he received a more important title than theirs.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

12/17/20

+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: JOHN STEWART**

“Born of free blacks in 1786, John Stewart remained in his native state of Virginia until the age of twenty-one. When he left home to move to Ohio, Stewart began his long and difficult personal journey through a spiritual wilderness. Robbed of all his possessions, dependent on alcohol, and alternately dissolute and remorseful, he finally became so despondent that he wanted to end his life. As he contemplated death he thought he heard a voice call his name. He saw no one, but was able to turn back and begin his process of conversation.

Stewart attended nearby Methodist camp and prayer meetings, and entered a period of deep reflection. While in private prayer, he again thought he heard a voice, this

12/17/20

time directing him to “declare my counsel faithfully.” For a time, he struggled against the call and finally fell ill.

Confronting death once again, he vowed to commit himself to mission work among the Indians, and to follow his calling to the northwest.

With neither money nor credentials, Stewart began work among the Wyandot Indians of Ohio in the winter of 1816. Faced with strong resistance by the Wyandots, envious accusations by other Christians, and recurring charges by dishonest whites that he was a runaway slave, Stewart persevered with courage and determination. The Quarterly Conference licensed the “missionary pioneer” in 1818, and the following year, the Ohio Conference established an official mission to the Wyandots. By the time he died in 1823, Stewart had converted numerous Wyandots and had been adopted into their nation.”

\* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: JOHN STEWART**

Strong Word of God, by whom the world was created, in whom the world is redeemed: Always send forth heralds

like John Stewart, to bear the good news, that your saving way may be made known in every place and time, in every land and to every people, for your sake and for the sake of the world. **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)*

+ 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.***

12/17/20

+ FOR THE ABSENT

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly pray you graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us.

Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

***We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for 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.**

+ 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.***

12/17/20

+ **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*

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

Unless otherwise noted, prayers used in morning prayer recordings are from the *Book of Common Prayer* under public domain.

All biographical information and prayers cited \* **For All the Saints** are;  
“Reprinted from *For All the Saints: A Calendar of Commemorations for United Methodists*, 2nd edition, editor Heather Josselyn-Cranson, © 2013 by the Order of Saint Luke. Used by permission.”

All prayers cited \* **OSL** are;  
“Reprinted from *The Book of OFFICES and SERVICES of The Order of Saint Luke*, © 2012 by The Order of Saint Luke. Used by permission of OSL Publications.”

All collects cited \* **Holy Women, Holy Men** are reprinted from *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints* Copyright © 2010 by The Church Pension Fund