

12/31/20

Thursday, December 31, 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. * OS�
**Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O
God, that we may sing for joy
and be glad all our days.**

PSALM 90:14

+ **MORNING CANTICLE OF JOY**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

PSALM 100

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

Oh God, The Holy Spirit,
come to us, and among us;
come as the wind, and cleanse us;
come as the fire, and burn;
come as the dew, and refresh;
convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives to
our great good and to your greater glory;
and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

[UM Book of Worship.]

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+ **Psalm 148** NRSV

***Joy to the world,
The Lord is come!***

¹ Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the *heavens*;
praise him in the *heights*!

² Praise him, all his *angels*;
praise him, all his *host*!

³ Praise him, sun and *moon*;
praise him, all you shin-ing *stars*!

⁴ Praise him, you high-est *heavens*,
and you waters a-bove the *heavens*!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the *LORD*,
for he commanded and they were cre-ated.

⁶ He established them for-ever and *ever*,
he fixed their bounds, which can-not be *passed*.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the *earth*,
you sea monsters and all *deeps*,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and *frost*,
stormy wind fulfilling his com-mand!

⁹ Mountains and all *hills*,
fruit trees and all *cedars*!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all *cattle*,
creeping things and fly-ing *birds*!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all *peoples*,
princes and all rulers of the *earth*!

¹² Young men and women a-*like*,
old and young to-*gether*!

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is *exalted*;
his glory is above earth and *heaven*.

¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his *faithful*,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the *LORD*!

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

***Joy to the world,
The Lord is come!***

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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+ **WORD:** John 8:12-19 CEB

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

¹² Jesus spoke to the people again, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won’t walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

¹³ Then the Pharisees said to him, “Because you are testifying about yourself, your testimony isn’t valid.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Even if I testify about myself, my testimony is true, since I know where I came from and where I’m going. You don’t know where I come from or where I’m going. ¹⁵ You judge according to human standards, but I judge no one. ¹⁶ Even if I do judge, my judgment is truthful, because I’m not alone. My judgments come from me and from the Father who sent me. ¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the witness of two people is true.

¹⁸ I am one witness concerning myself, and the Father who sent me is the other.”

¹⁹ They asked him, “Where is your Father?”

Jesus answered, “You don’t know me and you don’t know my Father. If you knew me, you would also know my Father.”

+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*,**

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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*.

+ 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.*

+ **COMMEMORATION:** Sylvester of Rome, bishop

Sylvester (or Silvester) was Bishop of Rome from 314 to 335 -- that is, from just after the Emperor Constantine's Edict legalizing Christianity to just before the death of Constantine. He was represented by delegates at the regional Council of Arles in 314 (called in an attempt to heal the Donatist schism) and at the ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325 (called to decide the Arian question). Constantine gave him the Lateran Palace, which became his cathedral. Little else is known of him. There are later stories of his dealings with Constantine, but these are totally unhistorical. We remember him chiefly as a representative of Christian leaders faced with the problem of how the Church ought to relate to a surrounding society at least superficially friendly to it.

By James Kiefer

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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+ **COLLECT: Sylvester of Rome, bishop**

O God, our Heavenly Father, who raised up your faithful servant Sylvester to be a bishop and pastor in your Church and to feed your flock: Give abundantly to all pastors the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that they may minister in your household as true servants of Christ and stewards of your divine mysteries; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

[*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 THOSE WHO MOURN

Gracious God, as your son wept with Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, look with compassion this day on those who grieve. Grant them the assurance of your presence now and faith in your

eternal goodness, that in them may be fulfilled the promise that those who mourn shall be comforted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

United Methodist Hymnal - *adapted*

+ PRAYERS FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, and especially administrators and teachers in this time of pandemic, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYERS FOR OUR ENEMIES

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; 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.**

+ **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

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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

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