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Tuesday, December 15, 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.

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**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 wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.
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:

Dawn from on high,
Your light illumines all our days.
Awaken us to your visitations throughout this day.
Be merciful in us for the sake of others.
Make us fearless when confronting injustice and need,
that we may give you glory in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

+ Psalm 125 NRSV

**As the mountains surround Jer-u-salem,
so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time on and for-ev-er-more.**

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but a-bides for-ever.

² As the mountains surround Jer-u-salem,
so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time on and for-ev-er-more.

³ For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the *righteous*,

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so that the righteous might not stretch out
their hands to do *wrong*.

⁴ Do good, O LORD, to those who are *good*,
and to those who are upright in their *hearts*.

⁵ But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways
the LORD will lead away with *e_vil-doers*.
Peace be u-pon *Israel!*

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

***As the mountains surround Jer-u-salem,
so the Lord surrounds his people,
from this time on and for-ev-er-more.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD**: Acts 3:17-4:4 CEB

¹⁷ My friends, I am sure that you and your leaders didn't
know what you were doing. ¹⁸ But God had his prophets tell
that his Messiah would suffer, and now he has kept that
promise. ¹⁹ So turn to God! Give up your sins, and you will be
forgiven. ²⁰ Then that time will come when the Lord will give
you fresh strength. He will send you Jesus, his chosen

Messiah. ²¹ But Jesus must stay in heaven until God makes
all things new, just as his holy prophets promised long ago.

²² Moses said, "The Lord your God will choose one of your
own people to be a prophet, just as he chose me. Listen to
everything he tells you. ²³ No one who disobeys that prophet
will be one of God's people any longer."

²⁴ Samuel and all the other prophets who came later also
spoke about what is now happening. ²⁵ You are really the
ones God told his prophets to speak to. And you were given
the promise that God made to your ancestors. He said to
Abraham, "All nations on earth will be blessed because of
someone from your family." ²⁶ God sent his chosen Son to
you first, because God wanted to bless you and make each
one of you turn away from your sins.

⁴ The apostles were still talking to the people, when some
priests, the captain of the temple guard, and some
Sadducees arrived. ² These men were angry because the
apostles were teaching the people that the dead would be
raised from death, just as Jesus had been raised from death.
³ It was already late in the afternoon, and they arrested Peter
and John and put them in jail for the night. ⁴ But a lot of

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people who had heard the message believed it. So by now there were about five thousand followers of the Lord.

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*.

+ **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.

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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

+ 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, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to those we pray for this day, the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYERS FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER FOR THE AGED

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.*

+ 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

⁹ This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. ¹⁰ I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ. ¹¹ I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God. **Amen.**

Philippians 1:9-11 CEB

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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