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Tuesday, December 29, 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.

PSALM 90:14

+ **MORNING CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Come, let us sing to the Ho-ly One; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal-vation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanks-giving,*
and raise a loud shout with *psalms*.

For you, O God, are a great God,*
you are great a-bove all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the *earth*,*
and the heights of the hills are yours *also*.
The sea is yours, for you made it,*
and your hands have molded the dry *land*.
Come, let us bow down and bend the *knee*,*
and kneel before God, our Maker.

For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand.*
Oh, that today we would hearken to your *voice*!

PSALM 95:1-7

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy
thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which
no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no
unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us

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also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you,
diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a
faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT., ALT.)

+ **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*!

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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

+ **WORD:** **Matthew 12:46-50** NRSV

⁴⁶ While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. ⁴⁷ Someone told him, “Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” ⁴⁸ But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” ⁴⁹ And pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

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*.

+ 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: THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

On December 29, we remember Thomas a Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, slain in his own cathedral in

1170, for his defiance of King Henry II. The death of Thomas reminds us that a Christian, even when safe from pagans, can be in danger from his fellow-Christians. It also reminds us that one can be martyred in a cause where the merits of the particular issue at hand are not obvious to all men of good will. The issue here, or one of the issues, was one of court jurisdiction. King Henry claimed that a cleric accused of an ordinary crime ought to be tried in the King's Courts like any layman. Thomas, who was Henry's Chancellor and his close friend, vigorously upheld the king's position. However, when he was made Archbishop of Canterbury with the king's support, he reversed himself completely and upheld the right of clergy to be tried only in Church courts, which could not inflict capital punishment. (This reversal does not imply fickleness or treachery. As Chancellor, Thomas was bound to serve the king. Now, as Archbishop, he was bound to defend the Church.) Henry wanted an arrangement by which (for example) a priest accused of murder would be tried by a Church Court, which if it found him guilty would degrade him to the rank of a layman, whereupon a King's Court would try him, and if it found him guilty would order him

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hanged. Thomas objected that a man could not be tried and punished twice for the same offense.

[by James Kiefer](#)

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**

O God, our strength and our salvation, who called your servant Thomas Becket to be a shepherd of your people and a defender of your Church: Keep your household from all evil and raise up among us faithful pastors and leaders who are wise in the ways of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ the shepherd of our souls, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

* Holy Women, Holy Men

+ **PRAYERS**

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

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

+ SILENT PRAYER

+ FOR A SICK PERSON

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly beseech you to behold, visit, and relieve your sick servants for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; preserve them from the temptations of the enemy; and give them patience under their affliction. In your good time, restore them to health, and enable them to live the remainder of their lives in your awe, and to your glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ FOR ALL PLACES AND PREDICAMENTS

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech you for all places and predicaments of people; that thou would be pleased to make your ways known unto them, your saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good

Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate, that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER FOR the President of the United States
and all in Civil Authority

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you

***and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.
Amen.***

+ 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.***

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+ **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 I pray that your love will keep on growing and that you will fully know and understand ¹⁰ how to make the right choices. Then you will still be pure and innocent when Christ returns. And until that day, ¹¹ Jesus Christ will keep you busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God. **Amen.**

Philippians 1:9-11 CEV

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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