

12/08/20

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

+ **MORNING 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 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 27** NRSV

Hear, O Lord, when I cry a-loud,
be gracious to me and an-swer me!

¹ The LORD is my light and my salva-tion;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be a-fraid?

² When evildoers assail me
to de-your my flesh—

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my adversaries and foes—
they shall stum-ble and *fall*.

³ Though an army en-camp against *me*,
my heart shall not *fear*,
though war rise up a-gainst *me*,
yet I will be con-fi-*dent*.

⁴ One thing I asked of the *LORD*,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the *LORD*
all the days of my *life*,
to behold the beauty of the *LORD*,
and to inquire in his *temple*.

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of *trouble*;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a *rock*.

⁶ Now my head is lift-ed *up*
above my enemies all a-round *me*,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of *joy*;
I will sing and make melody to the *LORD*.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry *a-loud*,
be gracious to me and an-swer *me*!

⁸ “Come,” my heart says, “seek his *face*!”
Your face, LORD, do I seek.

⁹ Do not hide your face from *me*.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my *help*.

Do not cast me off, do not for-sake *me*,
O God of my sal-*vation*!

¹⁰ If my father and mother for-sake *me*,
the LORD will take me *up*.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O *LORD*,
and lead me on a level path
because of my en-e-*mies*.

¹² Do not give me up to the will of my ad-ver-*saries*,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out vi-o-*lence*.

¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the *LORD*
in the land of the *living*.

¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take *courage*;
wait for the *LORD*!

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

***Hear, O Lord, when I cry a-loud,
be gracious to me and an-swer me!***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD: Acts 11:1-18** NRSV

11 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God.

² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me.

⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever

entered my mouth.’ ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

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.

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 SOCIAL JUSTICE

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may
So move every human heart, and especially the hearts
of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us
may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease;
that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice
and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ FOR THE HARVEST OF LANDS AND WATERS

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ 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

⁹ Here's what I pray for you:

*Father, may their love grow more and more in wisdom and insight— ¹⁰ so they will be able to *examine and* determine the best *from everything else*. And on the day of the Anointed One, *the day of His judgment*, let them stand pure and blameless, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that ripens through Jesus the Anointed.*

All this I pray, with a view to God's ultimate praise and glory.

Amen.

Philippians 1:9-11 THE VOICE

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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