

Wednesday, December 16, 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, O come, thou Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height;  
***In ancient times did give the law,***

In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

***Emmanuel shall come to earth; let love dispel all fear.***

OSL

+ 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  
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 125 NRSV

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup>For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the *righteous*,  
so that the righteous might not stretch out  
their hands to do *wrong*.

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

<sup>5</sup>But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways  
the LORD will lead away with e-vil-doers.  
Peace be u-pon *Israe!*

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

+ **WORD:** **Mark 9:9-13** NRSV

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean. <sup>11</sup> Then they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” <sup>12</sup> He said to them, “Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt? <sup>13</sup> But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written about him.”

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*.

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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.***

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+ 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.***

+ PRAYERS OF SELF-DEDICATION

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

***O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants celebrating birthdays this day as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through 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***

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*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

God be in your head, and in your understanding.  
God be in your eyes, and in your looking.  
God be in your mouth, and in your speaking.  
God be in your heart, and in your thinking.  
God be at your end, and at your departing.

(SARUM LITURGY, ENGLAND, 13TH CENT., ALT.)

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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