

Wednesday, December 23, 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.)

+ Luke 1:46-55 CEV

⁴⁶ Mary said:

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With all my heart

I praise the Lord,

⁴⁷ and I am glad

because of God my Savior.

⁴⁸ He cares for me,

his humble servant.

From now on,

all people will say

God has blessed me.

⁴⁹ God All-Powerful has done

great things for me,

and his name is holy.

⁵⁰ He always shows mercy

to everyone

who worships him.

⁵¹ The Lord has used

his powerful arm

to scatter those

who are proud.

⁵² He drags strong rulers

from their thrones

and puts humble people

in places of power.

⁵³ God gives the hungry

good things to eat,

and sends the rich away

with nothing.

⁵⁴ He helps his servant Israel

and is always merciful

to his people.

⁵⁵ The Lord made this promise

to our ancestors,

to Abraham and his family

forever!

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,

one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

Silence

+ WORD: **Mark 11:1-11** NRSV

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near

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a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it,
⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you
doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ They told them what Jesus had
said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought
the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat
on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and
others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the
fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who
followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor
David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple;
and when he had looked around at everything, as it was
already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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.***

+ **JOYFUL REFLECTION AND MEDITATION:**

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.

All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:

'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'
one whose name is 'God with us' our Saviour shall be;
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;
yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

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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 FOR ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS

Grant, O Lord God, to all who have been baptized into The death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and live in righteousness and true holiness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by your gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; 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

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.)

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Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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