

Monday, September 21, 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.**

[ADAPTED FROM PSALM 51:15 AND 113:3]

+ **REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

(Water may be touched, poured or sprinkled.)

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.  
**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 OR CANTICLE**

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:  
Oh God, The Holy Spirit,  
come to us, and among us;  
come as the wind, and cleanse us;  
come as the fire, and burn;  
come as the dew, and refresh;  
convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives  
to our great good and to your greater glory;  
and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

[UM Book of Worship.]

**+ Psalm 106:1-12 NRSV**

Antiphon:

***Remember me, O LORD,  
when you show favor to your people;  
help me when you de-liver them.***

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD,  
or declare all his praise?

<sup>3</sup> Happy are those who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times.

<sup>4</sup> Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your  
people;

help me when you deliver them;

<sup>5</sup> that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,  
that I may glory in your heritage.

<sup>6</sup> Both we and our ancestors have sinned;  
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

<sup>7</sup> Our ancestors, when they were in Egypt,  
did not consider your wonderful works;  
they did not remember the abundance of your steadfast  
love,  
but rebelled against the Most High at the Red Sea.

<sup>8</sup> Yet he saved them for his name's sake,  
so that he might make known his mighty power.

<sup>9</sup> He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry;  
he led them through the deep as through a desert.

<sup>10</sup> So he saved them from the hand of the foe,  
and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.

<sup>11</sup> The waters covered their adversaries;  
not one of them was left.

<sup>12</sup> Then they believed his words;  
they sang his praise.

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

***Remember me, O LORD,  
when you show favor to your people;  
help me when you de-liver them.***

Silence

**+ WORD:** Romans 16:1-16 CEV

I have good things to say about Phoebe, who is a leader  
in the church at Cenchreae. <sup>2</sup> Welcome her in a way that  
is proper for someone who has faith in the Lord and is one  
of God's own people. Help her in any way you can. After

all, she has proved to be a respected leader for many others, including me.

<sup>3</sup> Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila. They have not only served Christ Jesus together with me, <sup>4</sup> but they have even risked their lives for me. I am grateful for them and so are all the Gentile churches. <sup>5</sup> Greet the church that meets in their home.

Greet my dear friend Epaenetus, who was the first person in Asia to have faith in Christ.

<sup>6</sup> Greet Mary, who has worked so hard for you.

<sup>7</sup> Greet my relatives Andronicus and Junias, who were in jail with me. They are highly respected by the apostles and were followers of Christ before I was.

<sup>8</sup> Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend whose faith is in the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> Greet Urbanus, who serves Christ along with us.

Greet my dear friend Stachys.

<sup>10</sup> Greet Apelles, a faithful servant of Christ.

Greet Aristobulus and his family.

<sup>11</sup> Greet Herodion, who is a relative of mine.

Greet Narcissus and the others in his family, who have faith in the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who work hard for the Lord.

Greet my dear friend Persis. She also works hard for the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Greet Rufus, that special servant of the Lord, and greet his mother, who has been like a mother to me.

<sup>14</sup> Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, and Hermas, as well as our friends who are with them.

<sup>15</sup> Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all of God's people who are with them.

<sup>16</sup> Be sure to give each other a warm greeting.

All of Christ's churches greet you.

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*.

+ **COMMEMORATION:** Matthew

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus was leaving, he saw a tax collector named Matthew sitting at the place for paying taxes. Jesus said to him, "Come with me." Matthew got up and went with him.

<sup>10</sup> Later, Jesus and his disciples were having dinner at Matthew's house. Many tax collectors and other sinners were also there. <sup>11</sup> Some Pharisees asked Jesus' disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and other sinners?"

<sup>12</sup> Jesus heard them and answered, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what the Scriptures mean when they say, 'Instead of offering sacrifices to me, I want you to be merciful to others.' I didn't come to invite good people to be my followers. I came to invite sinners."

Matthew 9:9-13 CEV

Silent reflection

+ COLLECT OF THE DAY for Matthew

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

+ **PRAYERS**

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

Let us pray:

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

***Gracious God, as your son wept with Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, look with compassion this day on those who grieve. Grant them the assurance of your presence now and faith in your eternal goodness, that in them may be fulfilled the promise that those who mourn shall be comforted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

[UM Hymnal] - adapted

+ PRAYERS FOR UNITY OF THE CHURCH

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ FOR THE RIGHT USE OF GOD'S GIFTS

***Almighty God, whose loving hand hath given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor thee with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ 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.

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace. **Amen.**

(NUMBERS 6:24-26)