

Monday, September 28, 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 28 NRSV**

Antiphon:

***The Lord is the strength of his people;  
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.***

- <sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I call;  
my rock, do not refuse to hear me,  
for if you are silent to me,  
I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
- <sup>2</sup> Hear the voice of my supplication,  
as I cry to you for help,  
as I lift up my hands  
toward your most holy sanctuary.
- <sup>3</sup> Do not drag me away with the wicked,  
with those who are workers of evil,  
who speak peace with their neighbors,  
while mischief is in their hearts.
- <sup>4</sup> Repay them according to their work,  
and according to the evil of their deeds;  
repay them according to the work of their hands;  
render them their due reward.
- <sup>5</sup> Because they do not regard the works of the LORD,

or the work of his hands,  
he will break them down and build them up no more.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD,  
for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
in him my heart trusts;  
so I am helped, and my heart exults,  
and with my song I give thanks to him.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is the strength of his people;  
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

<sup>9</sup> O save your people, and bless your heritage;  
be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

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

***The Lord is the strength of his people;  
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.***

Silence

+ **WORD:**                      Philippians 1:3-14    CEV

<sup>3</sup> Every time I think of you, I thank my God. <sup>4</sup> And whenever I mention you in my prayers, it makes me happy. <sup>5</sup> This is because you have taken part with me in spreading the good news from the first day you heard about it. <sup>6</sup> God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns.

<sup>7</sup> You have a special place in my heart. So it is only natural for me to feel the way I do. All of you have helped in the work that God has given me, as I defend the good news and tell about it here in jail. <sup>8</sup> God himself knows how much I want to see you. He knows that I care for you in the same way that Christ Jesus does.

<sup>9</sup> I pray that your love will keep on growing and that you will fully know and understand <sup>10</sup> how to make the right choices. Then you will still be pure and innocent when Christ returns. And until that day, <sup>11</sup> Jesus Christ will keep you busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God.

<sup>12</sup> My dear friends, I want you to know that what has happened to me has helped to spread the good news.

<sup>13</sup> The Roman guards and all the others know that I am

here in jail because I serve Christ. <sup>14</sup> Now most of the Lord's followers have become brave and are fearlessly telling the message.

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*.

**+ A READING FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION:**

Wisdom from Oswald Chambers:

“Jesus Christ reveals, not an embarrassed God, not a confused God, not a God who stands apart from the problems, but One who stands in the thick of the whole thing with man.”

*Disciples Indeed, 388 L*

Silent reflection

**+ 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

**+ PRAYER FOR A CHURCH CONVENTION**

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the October meeting of Greater New Jersey Annual Conference for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the

courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ PRAYERS FOR RAIN in wildfire areas

O God, heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has promised to all those who seek your kingdom and its righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life: Send, we ask you, in this time of need, such moderate rain and showers in the area of wildfires, that lives and property may be saved, and we may receive the fruits of the earth, to our comfort and to your honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER - adapted]

+ PRAYER FOR IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

***O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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)