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Wednesday, September 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.

[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.

[PSALM 90:14]

+ **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 (OSH PSALTER)]

+**MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;
And also with you.

Let us pray:

We give you hearty thanks for the rest of the past night
and for the gift of a new day, with its opportunities of
pleasing you. Grant that we may so pass its hours in the
perfect freedom of your service, that at eventide we may
again give thanks unto you. ***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.***

¹ Praise the LORD!

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

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

³ Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.

⁴ Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your
people;

help me when you deliver them;

⁵ 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.

⁶ Both we and our ancestors have sinned;
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

⁷ 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.

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

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

¹⁰ So he saved them from the hand of the foe,
and delivered them from the hand of the enemy.

¹¹ The waters covered their adversaries;
not one of them was left.

¹² 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: Matthew 18:1-5 NRSV

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked,
"Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² He
called a child, whom he put among them, ³ and said,

“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

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:**

**“We become what we love
and who we love shapes what we become.”**

Clare of Assisi

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Silent reflection

+ **PRAYERS**

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

Let us pray:

+ SILENT PRAYER

+ FOR HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL

For those we have lifted up today, may God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

+ 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]

+ FOR THOSE WHO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ PRAYERS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State of New Jersey, the

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spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

Before us it is blessed, behind us it is blessed,
below us it is blessed, above us it is blessed,
around us it is blessed as we set out with Christ.
Our speech is blessed as we set out for God.
With beauty before us, with beauty behind us,
with beauty below us, with beauty above us,
with beauty around us, we set out for a holy place
indeed. **Amen.**

(TRADITIONAL NAVAHO PRAYER, ALT.)