

Saturday, October 17, 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 96

Antiphon

***For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.***

- <sup>1</sup> O sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.
- <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.
- <sup>5</sup> For all the gods of the peoples are idols,  
but the LORD made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> Honor and majesty are before him;  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
- <sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.

***For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.***

Silence

+ **WORD:** Matthew 14:1-12 CEV

About this time Herod the ruler heard the news about Jesus <sup>2</sup> and told his officials, "This is John the Baptist! He has come back from death, and that's why he has the power to work these miracles."

<sup>3-4</sup> Herod had earlier arrested John and had him chained and put in prison. He did this because John had told him, "It isn't right for you to take Herodias, the wife of your brother Philip." <sup>5</sup> Herod wanted to kill John. But the people thought John was a prophet, and Herod was afraid of what they might do.

<sup>6</sup> When Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests. She pleased Herod <sup>7</sup> so much that he swore to give her whatever she wanted. <sup>8</sup> But the girl's mother told her to say, "Here on a platter I want the head of John the Baptist!"

<sup>9</sup>The king was sorry for what he had said. But he did not want to break the promise he had made in front of his guests. So he ordered a guard <sup>10</sup>to go to the prison and cut off John's head. <sup>11</sup>It was taken on a platter to the girl, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>12</sup>John's followers took his body and buried it. Then they told Jesus what had happened.

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: Ignatius of Antioch**

Ignatius of Antioch became Bishop of the city of Antioch around 69AD. When arrested for being a Christian, if Christians recanted their faith they would be freely pardoned. If not, they were placed under military guard and sentenced to die. When Ignatius of Antioch arrived in Rome, he was taken to the Colosseum and thrown to the lions. Just before being fed to the lions, in a well-known prayer, he described himself as the “wheat of Christ” reflecting his own sense of unity with Christ in death.

For more information: [Link #1](#) - [Link #2](#)

+ **COLLECT: Ignatius of Antioch**

Almighty God, we praise your Name for your bishop and martyr Ignatius of Antioch, who offered himself as grain to be ground by the teeth of wild beasts that he might present to you the pure bread of sacrifice. Accept, we pray, the willing tribute of our lives and give us a share in the pure and spotless offering of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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

+ PRAYERS FOR PEACE

***Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children***

***of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.***

+ FOR SOUND GOVERNMENT

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

*Lord, keep this nation under your care.*

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

*Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

*Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

*Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ***Amen.***

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.

[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)

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