

Saturday, October 24, 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 1** CEV

***the Law of the LORD makes them happy,
and they think about it day and night.***

God blesses those people
who refuse evil advice
and won't follow sinners
or join in sneering at God.

² Instead, the Law of the LORD
makes them happy,
and they think about it
day and night.

³ They are like trees
growing beside a stream,
trees that produce
fruit in season
and always have leaves.

Those people succeed
in everything they do.

⁴ That isn't true of those
who are evil,
because they are like straw

blown by the wind.

⁵ Sinners won't have an excuse
on the day of judgment,
and they won't have a place
with the people of God.

⁶ The LORD protects everyone
who follows him,
but the wicked follow a road
that leads to ruin.

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

***the Law of the LORD makes them happy,
and they think about it day and night.***

Silence

+ **WORD:** John 5:39-47 CEV

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, because you think you will
find eternal life in them. The Scriptures tell about me,

⁴⁰ but you refuse to come to me for eternal life.

⁴¹ I don't care about human praise, ⁴² but I do know that none of you love God. ⁴³ I have come with my Father's authority, and you have not welcomed me. But you will welcome people who come on their own. ⁴⁴ How could you possibly believe? You like to have your friends praise you, and you don't care about praise that the only God can give!

⁴⁵ Don't think that I will be the one to accuse you to the Father. You have put your hope in Moses, yet he is the very one who will accuse you. ⁴⁶ Moses wrote about me, and if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me. ⁴⁷ But if you don't believe what Moses wrote, how can you believe what I say?

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: SARAH CROSBY**

“In a time when women’s public speaking was considered shameful and unnatural, Sarah Crosby discovered an inner peace and conviction of her call. John Wesley came to the defense of what he called the “extraordinary call” of her ministry as it grew from class meeting to open-air preaching. As women's religious leadership opportunities expanded, their influence on social patterns widened. Schools were founded, prison reform begun, and medical help for the poor extended as women such as Sarah Crosby found their voice in the outpouring of the spirit. Within a decade after John Wesley’s death, the recognition of the extraordinary ministry of women turned into repression. Women were barred from the ministry of preaching.”

* For All the Saints

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

+ **COLLECT: SARAH CROSBY**

Almighty God, you gave to your servant Sarah Crosby special gifts of grace to understand and teach the truth as it is in Christ Jesus: Grant that by this teaching we may know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent; 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 THE GREATER NJ CONFERENCE

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Conference to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless Bishop Schol, our District Superintendents, other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER] *adapted*

+ PRAYERS FOR THE OPPRESSED

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend

their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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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