

Friday, November 27, 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.

+ **REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

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. * OS�
Satisfy us in the morning
with your steadfast love, O God,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

+ **MORNING CANTICLE** - *The First Song of Isaiah*

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be a-fraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure de-fense,
and he will be my *Savior*.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of sal-vation.
And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to the Lord and call u-pon his *Name*;

Make his deeds known a-mong the peoples;

see that they remember that his Name is ex-*alted*.
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great *things*,
and this is known in all the world.
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your *joy*,
for the great one in the midst of *you*
is the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 12:2-6

+**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 80:1-7, 17-19** NRSV

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

² before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

³ Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴ O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶ You make us the scorn^[a] of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

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

***Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.***

Silence

+ **WORD:** 1 Thessalonians 4 NRSV

Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one wrong or exploit a brother or sister in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we have already told

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you beforehand and solemnly warned you. ⁷ For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever rejects this rejects not human authority but God, who also gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹ Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, ¹¹ to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, ¹² so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and be dependent on no one.

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the

dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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*,

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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:

Shades of Gold

So many shades of gold

Autumn

Another miracle we take for granted

Another expression of the artist's vision

The blending of the autumn hues

with the setting sun

Warm

Comforting

Perfect

Thank you for autumn, Lord.

- Author Unknown

+ 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.***

United Methodist Hymnal - *adapted*

+ PRAYER FOR THE MISSION of the CHURCH

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

+ PRAYERS FOR TOWNS and RURAL AREAS

Lord Christ, when you came among us, you proclaimed the kingdom of God in villages, towns, and lonely places: Grant that your presence and power may be known throughout this land. Have mercy upon all of us who live and work in rural areas especially here in Atlantic County; and grant that all the people of our nation may give thanks to you for food and drink and all other bodily necessities of life, respect those who labor to produce them, and honor the land and the water from which these good things come. All this we ask in your holy Name. Amen.

+ A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: For the Harvest

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seed time and

harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. Amen.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

+ COLLECT FOR FRIDAY – Of the Holy Cross

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage, we plead, to take up our cross and follow him; 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.**

+ **BLESSING**

I pray that God, the source of all hope, will infuse your lives with an abundance of joy and peace in the midst of your faith so that your hope will overflow through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Romans 15:13 *THE VOICE*

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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