

Monday, November 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.

+ **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. * OSL
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 OF THANKSGIVING**

It is good to give thanks to the *LORD*,
to sing praises to your name, O Most *High*;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithful-ness by *night*,
to the music of the lute and the *harp*,
to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your *work*;
at the works of your hands I sing for *joy*.

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are ver-y *deep!* Psalm 92:1-5

+ **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 28** CEV

Blessed be the Lord,
for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.

¹ 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.

² Hear the voice of my supplication,

as I cry to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your most holy sanctuary.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Blessed be the LORD,
for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.

⁷ 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.

⁸ The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

⁹ 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*.

***Blessed be the Lord,
for he has heard the sound of my pleadings***

Silence

+ **WORD:** 2 Timothy 2:8-13 NRSV

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.

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: CLEMENT OF ROME**

Clement was the third bishop of Rome and, reportedly, was acquainted with Peter and Paul. Little is known about his life and faith except what can be read in a late first century letter to the church at Corinth – known as 1 Clement. Some of the letter deals with dissent in the Corinthian church that “had led many astray, cast many into discouragement, and caused grief for all” but also included were illustrative, homiletical, and liturgical material as seen below.

* For All the Saints

“Let the one truly possessed by the love of Christ keep his commandments. Who can express the binding power of divine love? Who can find words for the splendor of its beauty? Beyond all description are the heights to which it lifts us. Love unites us to God; "it cancels innumerable sins," has no limits to its endurance, bears everything patiently. Love is neither servile nor arrogant. It does not provoke schisms or form cliques, but always acts in harmony with others. By it all God's chosen ones have been sanctified; without it, it is impossible to please him. Out of love the Lord took us to himself; because he loved us and it was God's will, our Lord Jesus Christ gave his life's blood for us -- he gave his body for our body, his soul for our soul.”

1 Clement

Silent reflection

+ **COLLECT: CLEMENT OF ROME**

Almighty God, you chose your servant Clement of Rome to recall the Church in Corinth to obedience and stability: Grant that your Church may be grounded and settled in your truth by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; reveal to it what is not yet

known; fill up what is lacking; confirm what has already been revealed; and keep it blameless in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* Holy Women, Holy Men

+ **PRAYERS**

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

Let us pray: *(pray for those on your heart today)*

+ **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.

+ **A GENERAL THANKSGIVING (1979 Version)**

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole

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creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. **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.

+ 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.**

+ COVID POEM (read as a prayer this morning)

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted,
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre

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Friday night out

The taste of communion

A routine checkup

The school rush each morning

Coffee with a friend

The stadium roaring

Each deep breath

A boring Tuesday

Life itself.

When this ends,

may we find

that we have become

more like the people

we wanted to be

we were called to be

we hoped to be

and may we stay

that way--better

for each other

because of the worst.

- Laura Kelley Fanucci

+ **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.**

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+ **BLESSING**

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand. **Amen.**

(TRADITIONAL GAELIC PRAYER)

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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