

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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Wednesday, November 11, 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.

[PSALM 90:14]

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

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;

call upon him when he draws near.

Let the wicked forsake their ways

and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord,

and he will have compassion,

and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways,

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens

and return not again, but water the earth,

Bringing forth life and giving growth,

seed for sowing and bread for eating,

So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;

it will not return to me empty;

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,

and prosper in that for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:6-11

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT., ALT.)

+ **Psalm 63** NRSV

***Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.***

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;

my flesh faints for you,

as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

² So I have looked upon you in the sanc-tu-ary,
beholding your pow-er and *glory*.

³ Because your steadfast love is bet-ter than *life*,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ So I will bless you as long as I *live*;
I will lift up my hands and call on your *name*.

⁵ My soul is satisfied as with a rich *feast*,
and my mouth praises you with joy-ful lips

⁶ when I think of you on my *bed*,
and meditate on you in the watches of the *night*;

⁷ for you have been my *help*,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for *joy*.

⁸ My soul clings to you;
your right hand up-holds me.

⁹ But those who seek to de-stroy my *life*
shall go down into the depths of the *earth*;

¹⁰ they shall be given over to the power of the *sword*,
they shall be prey for *jackals*.

¹¹ But the king shall re-joice in God;

all who swear by him shall exult,
for the mouths of liars will be *stopped*.

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

***Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.***

Silence

+ **WORD: Matthew 24:29-35** CEB

²⁹ “Now immediately after the suffering of that time the sun will become dark, and the moon won’t give its light. The stars will fall from the sky and the planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Human One will appear in the sky. At that time all the tribes of the earth will be full of sadness, and they will see *the Human One coming in the heavenly clouds* with power and great splendor. ³¹ He will send his angels with the sound of a great trumpet, and they will gather his

chosen ones from the four corners of the earth, from one end of the sky to the other.

³² “Learn this parable from the fig tree. After its branch becomes tender and it sprouts new leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ In the same way, when you see all these things, you know that the Human One is near, at the door. ³⁴ I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until all these things happen. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

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: MARTIN OF TOURS**

Martin was born around 330 of pagan parents. His father was a soldier, who enlisted Martin in the army at the age of fifteen. One winter day he saw an ill-clad beggar at the gate of the city of Amiens. Martin had no money to give, but he cut his cloak in half and gave half to the beggar. In a dream that night, Martin saw Christ wearing the half-cloak. He had for some time considered becoming a Christian, and this ended his wavering. He was promptly baptized. At the end of his next military campaign, he asked to be released from the army, saying: "Hitherto I have faithfully served Caesar. Let me now serve Christ." He was accused of cowardice, and offered to stand unarmed between the contending armies. He was imprisoned, but released when peace was signed. The Feast of Martin, a soldier who fought bravely

and faithfully in the service of an earthly sovereign, and then enlisted in the service of Christ, is also the day of the Armistice which marked the end of the First World War. On it we remember those who have risked or lost their lives in what they perceived as the pursuit of justice and peace.

[By James Kiefer](#)

Silent reflection

+ COLLECT: MARTIN OF TOURS

Lord God of hosts, who clothed your servant Martin the soldier with the spirit of sacrifice, and set him as a bishop in your Church to be a defender of the catholic faith: Give us grace to follow in his holy steps, that at the last we may be found clothed with righteousness in the dwellings of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

[By James Kiefer](#)

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

+ PRAYERS

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

Let us pray:

+ SILENT PRAYER

+ FOR A SICK PERSON

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly beseech you to behold, visit, and relieve your sick servants for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; preserve them from the temptations of the enemy; and give them patience

under their affliction. In your good time, restore them to health, and enable them to live the remainder of their lives in your awe, and to your glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYERS OF SELF-DEDICATION

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR A BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants celebrating birthdays this day as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their

trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ THANKSGIVING FOR HEROIC SERVICE

Armistice Day (Veterans' Day, Remembrance Day)

11 November 1918

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure;

that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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.**

+ **BLESSING**

God be in your head, and in your understanding.
God be in your eyes, and in your looking.
God be in your mouth, and in your speaking.
God be in your heart, and in your thinking.
God be at your end, and at your departing.

(SARUM LITURGY, ENGLAND, 13TH CENT., ALT.)