

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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Wednesday, November 4, 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:

Dawn from on high,

Your light illumines all our days.

Awaken us to your visitations throughout this day.

Be merciful in us for the sake of others.

Make us fearless when confronting injustice and need,

that we may give you glory in the power of the Spirit.

Amen.

* For All the Saints

+ **Psalm 5** NRSV

***Listen to the sound of my cry,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.***

¹ Give ear to my words, O LORD;
give heed to my *sighing*.

² Listen to the sound of my *cry*,
my King and my God,
for to you I *pray*.

³ O LORD, in the morning you hear my *voice*;
in the morning I plead my case to you, and *watch*.

⁴ For you are not a God who delights in wick-ed-ness;
evil will not so-journ with *you*.

⁵ The boastful will not stand be-fore your *eyes*;
you hate all e-vil-*doers*.

⁶ You destroy those who speak *lies*;
the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and de-*ceitful*.

⁷ But I, through the abundance of your stead-fast love,
will enter your *house*,

I will bow down toward your ho-ly *temple*
in awe of *you*.

⁸ Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness
because of my *enemies*;
make your way straight be-fore *me*.

⁹ For there is no truth in their *mouths*;
their hearts are *destruction*;

their throats are o-pen *graves*;

they flatter with their *tongues*.

¹⁰ Make them bear their guilt, O *God*;

let them fall by their own *counsels*;

because of their many transgressions cast them *out*,

for they have rebelled against *you*.

¹¹ But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;

let them ever sing for *joy*.

Spread your protection over them,

so that those who love your name may ex-ult in *you*.

¹² For you bless the right-eous, O *LORD*;

you cover them with favor as with a *shield*.

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,

one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

Listen to the sound of my cry,

my King and my God,

for to you I pray.

Silence

+ **WORD: Matthew 15:1-9** CEB

15 Then Pharisees and legal experts came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ² “Why are your disciples breaking the elders’ rules handed down to us? They don’t ritually purify their hands by washing before they eat.”

³ Jesus replied, “Why do you break the command of God by keeping the rules handed down to you? ⁴ For God said, *Honor your father and your mother*, and *The person who speaks against father or mother will certainly be put to death*. ⁵ But you say, ‘If you tell your father or mother,

“Everything I’m expected to contribute to you I’m giving to God as a gift,” then you don’t have to honor your father.’

⁶ So you do away with God’s Law for the sake of the rules that have been handed down to you. ⁷ Hypocrites! Isaiah really knew what he was talking about when he

prophesied about you, ⁸ *This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from me*. ⁹ *Their worship of me is empty since they teach instructions that are human rules.*”

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*.

+ **A READING FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION:**

“When the church, the pulpit, and the pew get united, and God’s people are all of one mind, Christianity is like a red-hot ball rolling over the earth, and all the hosts of death and hell cannot stand before it.”

— Dwight L. Moody, *Prevailing Prayer*

Silent reflection

+ **PRAYERS**

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

Let us pray:

+ SILENT PRAYER

+ PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to those we pray for this day, the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR AGRICULTURE

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable

weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYERS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RACE

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; 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.**

+ **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.)