

Friday, January 15, 2021

+ **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** - *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:

Almighty and everlasting God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are
restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such
piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish
passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and
no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see
life clearly and, in your service, find perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Augustine

+ Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 CEV

***Before I even speak a word,
you know what I will say,
and with your powerful arm
you protect me from ev-ery side.***

You have looked deep
into my heart, LORD,
and you know all about me.

² You know when I am resting
or when I am working,
and from heaven
you dis-cover my thoughts.

³ You notice every-thing I do
and every-where I go.

⁴ Before I even speak a word,
you know what I will say,

⁵ and with your power-ful arm
you protect me
from ev-ery side.

⁶ I can't understand all of this!
Such wonderful knowledge
is far a-bove me.

¹³ You are the one
who put me together

inside my mother's body,
¹⁴ and I praise you
because of
the wonder-ful way
you cre-a-ted me.

Everything you do is marvelous!
Of this I have no doubt.

¹⁵ Nothing about me
is hidden from you!

I was secretly woven together
deep in the earth below,

¹⁶ but with your own eyes
you saw
my body be-ing formed.

Even before I was born,
you had written in your book
everything I would do.

¹⁷ Your thoughts are far beyond
my un-der-standing,
much more than I
could ev-er imagine.

¹⁸ I try to count your thoughts,
but they outnumber the grains
of sand on the beach.

1/15/21

And when I awake,
I will find you nearby.

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

***Before I even speak a word,
you know what I will say,
and with your powerful arm
you protect me from ev-ery side.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** Acts 13:16-25 CEV

¹⁶ Paul got up. He motioned with his hand and said:
People of Israel, and everyone else who worships God,
listen! ¹⁷ The God of Israel chose our ancestors, and he let
our people prosper while they were living in Egypt. Then with
his mighty power he led them out, ¹⁸ and for about forty years
he took care of them in the desert. ¹⁹ He destroyed seven
nations in the land of Canaan and gave their land to our
people. ²⁰ All this happened in about 450 years.

Then God gave our people judges until the time of the
prophet Samuel, ²¹ but the people demanded a king. So for
forty years God gave them King Saul, the son of Kish from
the tribe of Benjamin. ²² Later, God removed Saul and let
David rule in his place. God said about him, “David the son
of Jesse is the kind of person who pleases me most! He
does everything I want him to do.”

²³ God promised that someone from David’s family would
come to save the people of Israel, and that one is Jesus.
²⁴ But before Jesus came, John was telling everyone in Israel
to turn back to God and be baptized. ²⁵ Then, when John’s
work was almost done, he said, “Who do you people think I
am? Do you think I am the Promised One? He will come
later, and I am not good enough to untie his sandals.”

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*.

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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*.

+ THE APOSTLE'S CREED

*I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of the Father Almighty.
From there he shall come again to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

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

1 John 5:1-5 NRSV

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **PRAYERS**

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

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

+ PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness

and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with those we lift today, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that with health being renewed, all may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may
So move every human heart, and especially the hearts
of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us
may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease;
that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice
and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ FOR THE HARVEST OF LANDS AND WATERS

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

+ COLLECT FOR FRIDAY

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. 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**

The Lord bless us and keep us;
the Lord make his face to shine upon us,
and be gracious to us;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon us,
and give us peace. **Amen.**

NUMBERS 6:24–26

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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