

Monday, January 25, 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.

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**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!

Psalms 92:1-5

+ **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 46** CEV

**The LORD All-Powerful is with us.
The God of Jacob is our fortress.**

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¹ God is our might-y fortress,
always ready to help in times of *trouble*.

² And so, we won't be a-fraid!
Let the earth tremble
and the mountains tumble
into the deep-est sea.

³ Let the ocean roar and *foam*,
and its raging waves
shake the *mountains*.

⁴ A river and its streams
bring joy to the *city*,
which is the sacred home
of God Most *High*.

⁵ God is in that city,
and it won't be *shaken*.
He will help it at dawn.

⁶ Nations rage! King-doms *fall*!
But at the voice of God
the earth it-self *melts*.

⁷ The LORD All-Powerful is with *us*.
The God of Jacob is our *fortress*.

⁸ Come! See the fear-some *things*
the LORD has done on *earth*.

⁹ God brings wars to an end

all over the *world*.

He breaks the arrows,
shatters the spears,
and burns the *shields*.

¹⁰ Our God says, "Calm down,
and learn that I am *God*!
All nations on earth
will hon-or *me*."

¹¹ The LORD All-Powerful is with *us*.
The God of Jacob is our *fortress*.

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

The LORD All-Powerful is with us.

The God of Jacob is our fortress.

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** Galatians 1:11-24 CEV

¹¹ My friends, I want you to know that no one made up the message I preach. ¹² It wasn't given or taught to me by some mere human. My message came directly from Jesus Christ when he appeared to me.

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¹³ You know how I used to live as a Jew. I was cruel to God's church and even tried to destroy it. ¹⁴ I was a much better Jew than anyone else my own age, and I obeyed every law that our ancestors had given us. ¹⁵ But even before I was born, God had chosen me. He was kind and had decided ¹⁶ to show me his Son, so that I would announce his message to the Gentiles. I didn't talk this over with anyone. ¹⁷ I didn't say a word, not even to the men in Jerusalem who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went at once to Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Three years later I went to visit Peter in Jerusalem and stayed with him for fifteen days. ¹⁹ The only other apostle I saw was James, the Lord's brother. ²⁰ And in the presence of God I swear I am telling the truth.

²¹ Later, I went to the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² But no one who belonged to Christ's churches in Judea had ever seen me in person. ²³ They had only heard that the one who had been cruel to them was now preaching the message that he had once tried to destroy. ²⁴ And because of me, they praised God.

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.

+ **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.*

+ **COMMEMORATION: The Conversion of Paul**

The conversion of Paul, the "Apostle of the Gentiles," took place within a few years following the crucifixion of Jesus, when he was still known as "Saul," a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee, and a fervent opponent of the movement known as "the Way." According to the Acts of the Apostles, Paul approved of the stoning of Stephen. Following Stephen's martyrdom, Paul embarked upon a journey to Damascus to arrest some Christians there and bring them to Jerusalem for condemnation. It was on the road to Damascus that Paul was suddenly encountered by the risen Christ. This conversion experience is related three times in Acts (9: 1-19; 22: 5-16, and 26: 12-18). Although each of these accounts is narrated in a slightly different manner, the same basic sequence of events is consistently reported: Paul sees a great light and hears a voice saying,

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Upon asking, "Who are you, Lord?", he hears the reply, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." With that, Paul is directed by the risen Lord to continue on his journey. Now, rather than arresting followers of "the Way," he begins his ministry of proclaiming the Gospel.

Paul himself recounts his conversion in Galatians recalling his "earlier life in Judaism" wherein he took to "violently persecuting the church of God" (1: 13). He emphasizes that God "called me through his grace," and "was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles" (1: 15, 16). Thus Paul refers to himself as an "apostle," as he "was sent neither by human commission nor from human authorities, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead" (1: 1).

Paul's missionary activity contributed to the rapid growth of Gentile Christianity from Asia Minor westward. His letters have been formative for Christian theology and practice and his life bears witness to the transformative power of the gospel. A former enemy of the gospel, Paul himself was martyred under the Emperor Nero. It is this saint

who, knowing the love of God which called him out of enmity into grace, wrote:

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are all accounted sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loves us (Rom 8: 35-37).

* For All the Saints pg.79

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT:** The Conversion of Paul

O God, who by the preaching of your apostle Paul has caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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+ **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, 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 OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. ***Amen.***

+ FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for all future generations. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen.

+ FOR THE ABSENT

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly pray you graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who 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**

⁹ I pray that our love will keep on growing and that we will fully know and understand ¹⁰ how to make the right choices. Then we will still be pure and innocent when Christ returns. And until that day, ¹¹ Jesus Christ will keep us busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God. **Amen.**

Philippians 1:9-11 CEV

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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