

Saturday, January 16, 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 OF WISDOM**

Wisdom has built her house, setting up seven pillars.
She has prepared the food and wine and set her table.

**She has sent out her servants
to call out from the Heights above the city:**

"Let those who want enlightenment come.
Come, taste my bread and drink my spiced wine.

**Give up your foolishness and live,
And walk the path of understanding."**

If you are wise, your reward is wisdom;
If you teach the just, they grow in understanding.
**Wisdom begins with reverence for God,
and knowledge of the holy one is insight.**

* OSL

+ **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 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.

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:** Matthew 25:1-13 CEV

The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten girls took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. ² Five of the girls were foolish [unprepared] and five were wise [prepared]. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil. ⁴ The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps.

⁵ The groom was late arriving, and the girls became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ Then in the middle of the night someone shouted, "Here's the groom! Come to meet him!"

⁷ When the girls got up and started getting their lamps ready, ⁸ the foolish ones said to the others, "Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out."

⁹ The girls who were wise answered, "There's not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves."

¹⁰ While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The girls who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed. ¹¹ Later the other girls returned and shouted, "Sir, sir! Open the door for us!"

¹² But the groom replied, "I don't even know you!"

¹³ So, my disciples, always be ready! You don't know the day or the time when all this will happen.

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: HIRAM RHOADES REVELS**

“Revels, a Methodist preacher and politician of African and Native-American descent, was born to free parents in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on September 1, 1822. Revels was forbidden by law to attend southern schools but Indiana and Ohio institutions gave him both grade school and seminary education. Graduating in 1845 from Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, Revels was one of few American blacks who received a college education prior to 1860. He was ordained by the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1845.

...

Wary of compromising his ministerial duties, Revels cautiously entered Reconstruction politics as a Natchez, Mississippi, alderman, becoming a state senator in 1869. The Mississippi legislature elevated him to the U. S. Senate in January 1870, placing Revels, a black southerner, in the seat that the Confederate president Jefferson Davis had once occupied. Retiring from the Senate in 1871, he became president of Alcorn University, Oakland, Mississippi, a newly established school for blacks.

...

Revels cautioned that legislation sanctioning segregation would depart from the earliest attitude of Methodists toward

African-Americans. The "Mother Church," he wrote, "came among them to do good -- she showed no pride and offishness toward. . .their color and previous condition of servitude, but treated them kindly and affectionately, taking them by hand and conducting them into the same fold or church with themselves." [lxxiv] Like John Wesley, Revels believed God calls the Church not to model itself after the world but to model true community for the world.”

* For All the Saints

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: HIRAM RHOADES REVELS**

Witnesses in faith, in prayer, and in deed, holy in life, perfected in love, with us on earth, around us in heaven, your faithful witness Hiram Rhodes Revels points to the Way: Praise be to God, in living and dying, for saints who are with us, even today. **Amen.**

+ **PRAYERS**

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

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

+ 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 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.

+ 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.**

+ PRAYER FOR IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior

Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

+ A COLLECT FOR SATURDAYS

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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**

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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