

Tuesday, January 26, 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.**

PSALM 90:14

+ **MORNING CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Come, let us sing to the Ho-ly One; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal-vation.
**Let us come before God's presence with thanks-giving,*
and raise a loud shout with psalms.**
For you, O God, are a great God,*
you are great a-bove all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth,*
and the heights of the hills are yours also.**

The sea is yours, for you made it,*
and your hands have molded the dry land.
**Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,*
and kneel before God, our Maker.**

For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand.*
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

PSALM 95:1-7

+ **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

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faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

+ **Psalm 46** CEV

The LORD All-Powerful is with us.

The God of Jacob is our fortress.

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.

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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: Acts 5:33-42** CEV

³³ When the council members heard this, they became so angry that they wanted to kill the apostles. ³⁴ But one of the members was the Pharisee Gamaliel, a highly respected teacher. He ordered the apostles to be taken out of the room for a little while. ³⁵ Then he said to the council:

People of Israel, be careful what you do with these men.

³⁶ Not long ago Theudas claimed to be someone important, and about four hundred men joined him. But he was killed. All his followers were scattered, and that was the end of that.

³⁷ Later, when the people of our nation were being counted, Judas from Galilee showed up. A lot of people

followed him, but he was killed, and all his followers were scattered.

³⁸ So I advise you to stay away from these men. Leave them alone. If what they are planning is something of their own doing, it will fail. ³⁹ But if God is behind it, you cannot stop it anyway, unless you want to fight against God.

The council members agreed with what he said, ⁴⁰ and they called the apostles back in. They had them beaten with a whip and warned them not to speak in the name of Jesus. Then they let them go.

⁴¹ The apostles left the council and were happy, because God had considered them worthy to suffer for the sake of Jesus. ⁴² Every day they spent time in the temple and in one home after another. They never stopped teaching and telling the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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+ **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: TIMOTHY and TITUS

Timothy and Titus provided spiritual and intellectual support for the southern European mission of the Gospel. Communications preserved in the Pastoral Epistles, Paul's Letters, and the Church's story in Acts give us a glimpse into their contributions to the early Church.

The early Christian community at Lystra commended Eunice's son, Timothy, to Christian service with Paul. Young Timothy underwent circumcision in deference to his Jewish mother and the Jewish communities in which he would minister (Acts 16: 3). Undergoing ordination by laying on of hands (1 Tim 1: 18; 4: 17; 2 Tim 1: 6), he joined Paul for his second and third missionary journeys. As Paul's associate, Timothy's work was crucial in founding churches in Corinth, Thessalonica, and Philippi. He was sometimes sent to deal with

particularly sensitive and difficult situations. As Paul commends him to the Philippians, "I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. . . . Timothy's worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel" (Phil 2: 20, 22). He was appointed by Paul to be the bishop of the church in Ephesus (1 Tim 1: 3). Tradition holds that Timothy was martyred in Ephesus by stoning and clubbing under Emperor Nerva after Timothy's objections to the orgiastic worship of Artemis.

As circumcision figured in Timothy's nascent ministry, so it did with Titus as well. The decision that Titus would not undergo circumcision proved a major departure of Christianity from its Jewish roots (Gal 2: 1-3). Titus' ministry would touch the lives of the poor and the outcast, eminently seen in his work to collect the contribution for the struggling church in Jerusalem (2 Cor 8: 16-17). Acting in a diplomatic capacity as Paul's courier of the "painful" letter to the Corinthian church, Titus' diplomatic efforts elicit Paul's praise: "God . . . consoled us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about

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you" (2 Cor 7: 6-7). The Epistle to Titus indicates that Paul appointed him as bishop of Crete (Titus 1: 4-5).

* For All the Saints pg 82

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: TIMOTHY and TITUS**

Almighty God, who called Timothy and Titus to be evangelists and teachers, and made them strong to endure hardship: Strengthen us to stand fast in adversity, and to live godly and righteous lives in this present time, that with sure confidence we may look for our blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

* For All the Saints

+ **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 A SICK PERSON

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly ask you to recognize, 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.**

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+ PRAYERS FOR TRAVELERS

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who must travel in this time of pandemic; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR HEROIC SERVICE

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

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.***

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

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

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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