

Friday, February 5, 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 re-joicing  
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 147:1-11** NRSV

***Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre.***

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;

for he is gracious, and a song of praise is *fitting*.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD builds up Je-ru-sa-*lem*;

he gathers the out-casts of *Israel*.

<sup>3</sup> He heals the bro-ken-*hearted*,

and binds up their *wounds*.

<sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the *stars*;

he gives to all of them their *names*.

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord, and abundant in *power*;

his understanding is be-yond *measure*.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD lifts up the down-*trodden*;

he casts the wicked to the *ground*.

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with thanks-*giving*;

make melody to our God on the *lyre*.

<sup>8</sup> He covers the heavens with *clouds*,

prepares rain for the earth,

makes grass grow on the *hills*.

<sup>9</sup> He gives to the animals their *food*,

and to the young ravens when they *cry*.

<sup>10</sup> His delight is not in the strength of the *horse*,

nor his pleasure in the speed of a *runner*;

<sup>11</sup> but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear *him*,

in those who hope in his stead-fast *love*.

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

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

***Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** 1 Corinthians 9:1-16 VOICE

Am I not truly free? Am I not an emissary *of the Liberating King*? Have I not personally encountered Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work, *my mission* in the Lord? <sup>2</sup> Even if others don't recognize that I am His emissary, at least you do because you are the seal, *the living proof* that the Lord commissioned me to be His representative.

<sup>3</sup> Let me speak in my own defense against those *keeping themselves* busy picking me apart. <sup>4</sup> Have we lost the right to eat and drink? <sup>5</sup> Have we lost the right to bring along our wives, our sisters in Jesus? Other emissaries travel with

their wives, and so do the brothers of our Lord, not to mention Cephas. <sup>6</sup> Is it just Barnabas and I who have lost the right to earn a living? <sup>7</sup> Is a soldier in combat required to pay his own salary? Who would plant a vineyard and not enjoy one grape from it? Who would care for *and nurture* a flock but never taste the fresh milk?

<sup>8</sup> These ideas aren't based on merely human notions; the law says these same things. <sup>9</sup> In Moses' law, it is written: "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out your grain." Is God's concern here limited to oxen, <sup>10</sup> or does He speak here ultimately for our benefit? These things were written for us, so as the plowman plows and the worker gathers, they can labor with the hopeful expectation that they, too, will share in the good harvest. <sup>11</sup> *The same principle applies here:* Is it too much to ask that we would be compensated materially for planting *life- and world-changing* spiritual realities? <sup>12</sup> If you have rightfully supported others, shouldn't we deserve your support even more?

But we have never insisted on this right; instead, we would rather put up with anything than to put some obstacle in the way that prevents *even one person from experiencing* the good news of the Anointed One. <sup>13</sup> Perhaps it has escaped your notice that leaders and priests of the temple make their livings off the temple and that those who tend the altar eat

their dinners from part of the sacrifices. <sup>14</sup> *So it shouldn't be a stretch that* the Lord has arranged for preachers of the gospel to make a living by *those who have embraced and been liberated by* the gospel.

<sup>15</sup> *Despite what I've said here*, I have never staked a claim for such things, and I have no intention to start now; that's not why I'm writing. I would rather die than have anyone (*including me*) invalidate my right to boast. <sup>16</sup> You see, if I preach the good news, it's nothing to brag about. *This urgency*, this necessity has been laid on me. In fact, if I were to stop sharing this good news, I'd be in big trouble.

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: PHILIPP JAKOB SPENER**

Spener served as the senior of the Lutheran clergy at Frankfurt/ Main from 1666-86. Here in 1670 he created the "collegia pietatis," small renewal groups. In 1675 his best known work, the Pia Desideria, appeared. It lamented church corruption and called for reform not in doctrine, but in life. Six reform proposals were offered: (1) more extensive use of the word of God, (2) establishment of the spiritual priesthood, i.e., more animated lay religious activity, (3) emphasis on a Christianity given to doing as well as to knowing, (4) loving behavior in religious controversy, (5) reform of theological education with a focus on faith and piety as well as academic preparation, and (6) the preaching of edifying sermons that would produce faith and its fruits.

Spener stressed the Wiedergeburt (the New Birth) and the daily renewal by the Holy Spirit that must follow it. He insisted that three things happen in the New Birth: faith is ignited in the heart; newborn persons have their sins forgiven, are justified, and are adopted as God's children; and an entirely other and new nature is created in them. Faith ought to eventuate in love. "Indeed, love is the whole life of the man who has faith and who through his faith is

saved, and his fulfillment of the laws of God consists of love."

\* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: PHILIPP JAKOB SPENER**

Almighty God, in whose kingdom servants are leaders, we give you thanks and praise for the memory of your servant Philipp Jakob Spener, who sensed the flow of your desire for the world and called us to new ways of worship and being: Let our will be caught by the tide of your love that creation might be renewed and all your people live in peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.

+ 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.***

+ PRAYER FOR PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

+ PRAYERS FOR COURTS OF JUSTICE

***Almighty God, who sits in the throne judging right: We humbly request you to bless the courts of justice and the judges in all this land; and give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of you alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.***

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

***Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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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