

Saturday, February 20, 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.**

+ **CANTICLE OF THE RESURRECTION**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast,
not with the old leaven of malice and evil,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ being raised from the dead

**will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death he died, he died to sin, once for all,
but the life he lives, he lives to God.**

So consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
For as in Adam all die,
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. * OSL

+ **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 25:1-10** NRSV

***Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.***

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my *soul*.

² O my God, in you I *trust*;
do not let me be put to *shame*;
do not let my enemies exult o-ver *me*.

³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to *shame*;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treach-er-ous.

⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your *paths*.

⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach *me*,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day *long*.

⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your stead-fast *love*,
for they have been from of *old*.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth
or my trans-gressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the *way*.

⁹ He leads the humble in what is *right*,
and teaches the hum-ble his *way*.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faith-
ful-ness,
for those who keep his covenant and his de-crees.

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

***Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** **Matthew 9:2-13** NRSV

² And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

³ Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." ⁴ But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? ⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of

Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” - he then said to the paralytic - “Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.”⁷ And he stood up and went to his home.⁸ When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

⁹ As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

¹⁰ And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”¹² But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.¹³ Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.”

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*.
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: FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

In February of 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland, Harriet Bailey, an African-American slave woman, gave birth to a son, Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. Although born in "the dark night of slavery," this son would become one of the leading lights in the nineteenth-century American abolitionist movement, a celebrated author and a social reformer. After escaping from slavery in 1838, he changed his name to Frederick Douglass, a change symbolic of his new identity. Douglass was no stranger to the physical and psychic indignities of slavery, of course, but he stood firm in his hope.

After his escape from slavery, Douglass was hired by the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison and began an extensive lecture tour in the United States and Europe, exposing the atrocities of slavery and advocating social reform. His literary and rhetorical abilities propelled him into national prominence and he enjoyed a distinguished but turbulent career as a champion of human rights.

* For All the Saints

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

Almighty God, whose truth makes us free: We bless your Name for the witness of Frederick Douglass, whose impassioned and reasonable speech moved the hearts of a president and a people to a deeper obedience to Christ. Strengthen us also to be outspoken on behalf of those in captivity and tribulation, continuing in the Word of Jesus Christ our Liberator; who with you and the Holy Spirit dwells in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

* Holy Women, Holy Men

+ **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 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.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily

lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

+ A COLLECT FOR SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth your right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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.**

+ **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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