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Thursday, February 18, 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

+ **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:

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

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+ **Psalm 25:1-10** NRSV

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

<sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my *soul*.

<sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I *trust*;

do not let me be put to *shame*;

do not let my enemies exult o-ver *me*.

<sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to *shame*;

let them be ashamed who are wantonly treach-er-ous.

<sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD;

teach me your *paths*.

<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth, and teach *me*,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day *long*.

<sup>6</sup> Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,

and of your stead-fast *love*,

for they have been from of *old*.

<sup>7</sup> 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!

<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;

therefore he instructs sinners in the *way*.

<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is *right*,

and teaches the hum-ble his *way*.

<sup>10</sup> 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: 1 John 1:3-10** CEV

<sup>3</sup>We are telling you what we have seen and heard, so that you may share in this life with us. And we share in it with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>We are writing to tell you these things, because this makes us truly happy.

<sup>5</sup>Jesus told us that God is light and doesn't have any darkness in him. Now we are telling you.

<sup>6</sup>If we say that we share in life with God and keep on living in the dark, we are lying and are not living by the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we live in the light, as God does, we share in

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life with each other. And the blood of his Son Jesus washes all our sins away. <sup>8</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts. <sup>9</sup> But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away.

<sup>10</sup> If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and his message isn't in our hearts.

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.***

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***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: MARTIN LUTHER**

Born into a Saxon miner's home in 1483, Luther received his B.A. degree from Erfurt University in 1502 and his masters degree in 1505. He disappointed his father by forsaking legal studies and becoming an Augustinian

monk. Monastic rigor, ordination to the priesthood in 1507, and receipt of a doctor of theology degree as he began his teaching career as a professor of biblical studies at Wittenberg University in 1512, however, did not bring Luther the peace of soul he arduously sought. Troubled by his sin before God, he found no release until in lecture preparation he discovered in Psalms 31 and 71, as well as in Romans 1: 16-17, that the righteousness of God is redemptive, not condemnatory, and that salvation comes as we trust the divine righteousness in Christ to cover our sin.

Luther's sermons and many subsequent publications supporting his new "discovery" of the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith ran counter to the medieval church's emphasis on pleasing God as best one could through good works as well as by faith. In his great 1520 treatise "On the Freedom of a Christian," he summarized the paradoxical nature of his theology: "A Christian is perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." By faith we are freed from doing the works of the law for our salvation and we are opened upward to God; by love we are opened downward and outward to our neighbor.

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At the Diet of Worms in 1521 Luther, on Scriptural grounds, refused to recant his teachings. Condemned by both the Roman Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Empire, he spent the rest of his life in Wittenberg protected by the electors of Saxony.

In 1525 Luther married a former nun, Catharine von Borah. Six children were born into their happy home.

There are some one hundred volumes in Luther's collected works, including many biblical commentaries. "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" is the best known of his hymns. By the time Luther died, half of modern-day Germany and the Scandinavian countries were following his theological and liturgical reforms. \* For All the Saints pg 97

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: MARTIN LUTHER**

Almighty God, in whose kingdom servants are leaders, we give you thanks and praise for the memory of your servant Martin Luther, 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.**

\* 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 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.***

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+ PRAYER FOR CONSERVATION of Natural Resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR

Those Who Suffer For The Sake Of Conscience

***O God our Father, whose Son forgave his enemies while he was suffering shame and death: Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience; when they are accused, save them from speaking in hate; when they are rejected, save them from bitterness; when they are imprisoned, save them from despair; and to us your servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our merciful and righteous Judge. 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.***

+ 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.***

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+ COLLECT FOR THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

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

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## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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