

2/25/21

Thursday, February 25, 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 JOY**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;

his mercy is everlasting;

and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

PSALM 100

+ **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 22:23-31](#) CEV

Those who are poor will eat;

Those who seek you will give praise.

²³ All who worship the LORD,
 now praise *him!*

You belong to Jacob's family
and to the people of Israel,
 so fear and honor the *LORD!*

²⁴ The LORD doesn't hate
or despise the helpless
 in all of their *troubles*.

When I cried out, he listened
 and did not turn a-way.

²⁵ When your people meet,
you will fill my heart
 with your prais-es, *LORD*,
 and everyone will see me
 keep my promis-es to *you*.

²⁶ The poor will eat and be *full*,
and all who worship you
 will be thankful
 and live in *hope*.

²⁷ Everyone on this earth
 will remember you, *LORD*.

People all over the world

 will turn and wor-ship you,
²⁸ because you are in control,
 the ruler of all *nations*.

²⁹ All who are rich
and have more than enough
 will bow down to you, *Lord*.

Even those who are dying
and almost in the grave
 will come and bow *down*.

³⁰ In the future, everyone will *worship*
 and learn about you, our *Lord*.

³¹ People not yet born
will be *told*,
 "The Lord has saved *us!*"

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

Those who are poor will eat;

Those who seek you will give praise.

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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+ **WORD: Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18** CEV

Later the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision, “Abram, don’t be afraid! I will protect you and reward you greatly.”

² But Abram answered, “LORD All-Powerful, you have given me everything I could ask for, except children. And when I die, Eliezer of Damascus will get all I own.^[a] ³ You have not given me any children, and this servant of mine will inherit everything.”

⁴ The LORD replied, “No, he won’t! You will have a son of your own, and everything you have will be his.” ⁵ Then the LORD took Abram outside and said, “Look at the sky and see if you can count the stars. That’s how many descendants you will have.” ⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD was pleased with him.

¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and everything became dark and frightening. ¹³⁻¹⁵ Then the LORD said:

Abram, you will live to an old age and die in peace.

But I solemnly promise that your descendants will live as foreigners in a land that doesn’t belong to them. They will be forced into slavery

and abused for four hundred years. But I will terribly punish the nation that enslaves them, and they will leave with many possessions.

¹⁶ Four generations later, your descendants will return here and take this land, because only then will the people who live here be so sinful that they deserve to be punished.

¹⁷ Sometime after sunset, when it was very dark, a smoking cooking pot and a flaming fire went between the two halves of each animal. ¹⁸ At that time the LORD made an agreement with Abram and told him:

I will give your descendants the land east of the Shihor River on the border of Egypt as far as the Euphrates River.

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,***

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***the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

+ COMMEMORATION: AMANDA BERRY SMITH

Former slave and washerwoman, Amanda Berry Smith achieved international acclaim as a holiness preacher, evangelist, and "singing pilgrim" who traveled throughout the United States, Europe, India, and Africa.

Born January 23, 1837, about 20 miles north of Baltimore, she was freed during childhood when her father purchased his family and moved them north to Pennsylvania. Denied an education because of local race prejudice, the Berry children learned the alphabet from their parents. She went to work as a domestic, and while praying in the basement of the home where she worked, was converted to the Christian faith. She remained a lifelong member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

After the Civil War, she moved to New York where she heard John Inskip preach on sanctification and

experienced what was then called "the second blessing." When her husband died in 1869 she began her ministry, traveling to New Jersey and throughout the northeast leading revivals, testifying, singing, and preaching at camp meetings.

Once, she shared this testimony of faith:

God saves people so that they will stay saved. When you get 'sealed' it takes the nonsense out of you How careful God is to protect his sealed ones Temptations will come even to the sealed ones, but Remember, God's eye is upon you, and Jesus sees all the fiery darts that are shot at his sealed ones, and catches and quenches them in his own precious blood. We are under the special protection of the divine almighty One when once we are sealed. Hallelujah!

She spent most of her public ministry before mainly white congregations. Through her riveting renditions of slave spirituals and traditional hymns and her stirring testimonies about her experiences with God, Smith

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attracted the attention of such prominent holiness leaders as Phoebe Palmer, Frances Willard, and William Taylor.

In the early 1890' s she returned to the U.S. after twelve years as an itinerant missionary in Europe, India, and West Africa, and in 1893 she published her autobiography. Later, she founded an orphanage and industrial school for black children in Harvey, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Failing health forced her to retire to Sebring, Florida, in 1913, where she died on this date in 1915.

* For All the Saints pg 106

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT:** AMANDA BERRY SMITH

Holy and merciful God, in your love for the world you raised Amanda Berry Smith to be an evangelist, a herald of the good news: strengthen and guide those entrusted with the proclamation of your Word that as they make known your redeeming love we may heed and receive their glad tidings, 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.

+ FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

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+ PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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.

+ COLLECT: THURSDAY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Strengthen us, O Lord, by your grace, that in your might we may overcome all spiritual enemies, and with pure hearts serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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+ 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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