

Tuesday, February 2, 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 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.)

+ **Psalm 35:1-10** ESV

¹ Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me!

² Take hold of shield and buckler
and rise for my help!

³ Draw the spear and javelin^[a]
against my pursuers!

Say to my soul,
“I am your salvation!”

⁴ Let them be put to shame and dishonor
who seek after my life!

Let them be turned back and disappointed
who devise evil against me!

⁵ Let them be like chaff before the wind,
with the angel of the LORD driving them away!

⁶ Let their way be dark and slippery,
with the angel of the LORD pursuing them!

⁷ For without cause they hid their net for me;
without cause they dug a pit for my life.^[b]

⁸ Let destruction come upon him when he does not know

it!

And let the net that he hid ensnare him;
let him fall into it—to his destruction!

⁹ Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD,
exulting in his salvation.

¹⁰ All my bones shall say,
“O LORD, who is like you,
delivering the poor
from him who is too strong for him,
the poor and needy from him who robs him?”

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

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD: 1 Corinthians 7:32-40** VOICE

³² My primary desire is for you to be free from the worries *that plague humanity*. A single man can focus on the things of the Lord and how to please the Lord, ³³ but a married man has to worry about the details of the here and now and how to please his wife. ³⁴ A married man will always have divided loyalties. *The same idea is true for a*

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young unmarried woman. She concerns herself only with the work of the Lord and how to dedicate herself entirely, body and spirit, *to her Lord*. On the other hand, a married woman has vast responsibilities for her family and a desire to please her husband. ³⁵ I am not trying to give you more rules and regulations. I only want to give you advice that is fitting and helpful. I want to help you live lives of faithful devotion to the Lord without any distraction.

³⁶ *But I have this advice for every single man:* If anyone thinks he is behaving badly toward his fiancée, if his desires prove to be too much for him, and if he feels they ought to marry, then he should do what he wants; it is not wrong *to marry her*. It is better that we let men *and women in this situation do as they wish and get married*. ³⁷ If a man has no compulsion and chooses not to marry his fiancée, but commits himself to live *a celibate life for the sake of following God* and has the strength to live out his conviction, then he is doing a good thing. ³⁸ So those who marry do a good thing, *and they will share in a holy blessing*; those who do not marry do an even better thing *because they are part of an even greater blessing in the service of God*.

³⁹ A wife should stay by her husband's side all of his life. But if he dies, she is free to marry any man she wishes as long as it is in the Lord. ⁴⁰ *You can likely guess that* in my opinion this woman would be better off to remain single, and I think that I have *this insight from God's Spirit*.

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*.**

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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*.

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.

+ **THE APOSTLE'S CREED**

I believe in God,

the Father Almighty,

+ **COMMEMORATION: THE PRESENTATION**

Today's Feast is sometimes known as the Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin, sometimes as Candlemas. In the Eastern Church it has been called the Meeting of Christ

with Simeon. Such a variety of names is sufficient testimony to the wealth of spiritual meaning that generations of Christians have discovered in this small incident.

The title, "The Presentation," reminds us of the Jewish law (Exodus 13:2; 22:29) that every firstborn son had to be dedicated to God in memory of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt, when the firstborn sons of the Egyptians died and those of Israel were spared.

When Mary placed her small son into the arms of Simeon, it was the meeting of the Old and New Dispensations. The old sacrifices, the burnt offerings and oblations, were done away; a new and perfect offering had come into the temple. God had provided himself a lamb for the burnt-offering (Genesis 22:8), his only Son. The offering was to be made once for all on the cross. At every Eucharist those who are in Christ recall that sinless offering and unite "themselves, their souls and bodies" with the self-oblation of their Lord and Savior.

* Holy Women, Holy Men

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: THE PRESENTATION**

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
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 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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+ 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.**

+ FOR ALL PLACES AND PREDICAMENTS

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech you for all places and predicaments of people; that thou would be pleased to make your ways known unto them, your saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we

commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate, that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR the President of the United States
and all in Civil Authority

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **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.

+ **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**

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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