

Tuesday, February 23, 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-va-tion.
**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:

New every morning is your love, great God of light,
and all day long you are working for good in the world.
Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our
neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son,
our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT.)

+ **Psalm 77** NRSV

I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD;

I will remember your wonders of old.

- ¹ I cry a-loud to God,
aloud to God, that he may hear *me*.
- ² In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;
my soul refuses to be com-for-*ted*.
- ³ I think of God, and I *moan*;
I meditate, and my spir-it *faints*. *Selah*
- ⁴ You keep my eyelids from *closing*;
I am so troubled that I can-not speak.
- ⁵ I consider the days of old,
and remember the years of long a-*go*.
- ⁶ I commune with my heart in the *night*;
I meditate and search my *spirit*.
- ⁷ “Will the Lord spurn for-*ever*,
and never again be fa-vor-a-*ble*?
- ⁸ Has his steadfast love ceased for-*ever*?
Are his promises at an end for all *time*?
- ⁹ Has God forgotten to be *gracious*?
Has he in anger shut up his com-*passion*?” *Selah*
- ¹⁰ And I say, “It is my *grief*
that the right hand of the Most High has *changed*.”

- ¹¹ I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD;
I will remember your wonders of *old*.
- ¹² I will meditate on all your *work*,
and muse on your might-y *deeds*.
- ¹³ Your way, O God, is *holy*.
What god is so great as our God?
- ¹⁴ You are the God who works *wonders*;
you have displayed your might a-mong the *peoples*.
- ¹⁵ With your strong arm you re-deemed your *people*,
the descendants of Jacob and *Joseph*. *Selah*
- ¹⁶ When the waters saw you, O God,
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;
the very deep *trembled*.
- ¹⁷ The clouds poured out *water*;
the skies thundered;
your arrows flashed on ever-y *side*.
- ¹⁸ The crash of your thunder was in the *whirlwind*;
your lightnings lit up the world;
the earth trembled and *shook*.
- ¹⁹ Your way was through the sea,
your path, through the might-y *waters*;
yet your footprints were un-*seen*.
- ²⁰ You led your people like a *flock*
by the hand of Moses and *Aaron*.

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

***I will call to mind the deeds of the LORD;
I will remember your wonders of old.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD: 1 Peter 3:8-18** NRSV

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For

“Those who desire life

and desire to see good days,

let them keep their tongues from evil

and their lips from speaking deceit;

¹¹ let them turn away from evil and do good;

let them seek peace and pursue it.

¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,

and his ears are open to their prayer.

But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those

who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the 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*.**

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: POLYCARP**

Outside of the account of the death of Stephen (Acts 7), the story of the martyrdom of Polycarp is the oldest such story extant. Polycarp belongs to the so-called sub-apostolic age: in his youth he had heard the preaching of an apostle, in his case an apostle named John (some have presumed this John to have been the Beloved Disciple, others are less certain). Thus Polycarp belongs to the first generation following the death of the apostles. Polycarp also knew Ignatius, another witness to the apostolic age; the Antiochene bishop and martyr addressed a short letter to him. Polycarp may even have been responsible for collecting (and thus preserving) Ignatius' letters.

Polycarp is best known, however, for the account of his martyrdom. In it, we find the central motif which motivated later women and men to give their lives for their faith in

Christ: dying in a death like Christ's as the highest form of discipleship. Certainly, Ignatius said something similar earlier (see October 17). The difference, however, lies in the fact that the Martyrdom of Polycarp strives to show that in all things Polycarp's death was parallel to the account of Christ's passion, or "conformable to the gospel" (chapter 1). Thus the story of Polycarp's death served as a model for future narratives of the death of Christian martyrs. The Martyrdom also includes a number of polemical features of which the modern reader must be aware, including a strong hint of anti-Judaism (e.g., the Jews of Smyrna urge the Romans to arrest Polycarp), a common feature in early Christian writing.

Particularly striking is Polycarp's prayer of self-offering before he is burned at the stake. Its form and content, many authors believe, may have been very like the prayer he prayed each Sunday at his church's eucharist:

Lord, almighty God, through whom we have come to the knowledge of yourself, God of angels, of powers, of all creation, of all the race of saints who live in your sight, I bless you for judging me worthy of this day, this hour, so that in the company of the martyrs I

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may share the cup of Christ, your anointed one, and so rise again to eternal life in soul and body, immortal through the power of the Holy Spirit.

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: POLYCARP**

Martyr Master, as we commemorate Polycarp who was obedient to death for the sake of the gospel, grant that we may be bold to obey you in life and in death so that whether we live or die we are yours, in 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)*

+ PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

+ FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sets the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them, we ask you, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory,

and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who have become family. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kind hearted one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ COLLECT: TUESDAY IN THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Grant to your people, Lord, grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only true God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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.

+ 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.***

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+ 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

¹⁶ And I pray that he would unveil within us the unlimited riches of his glory and favor until supernatural strength floods our innermost beings with his divine might and explosive power.

¹⁷ Then, by constantly using our faith, the life of Christ will be released deep inside us, and the resting place of his love will become the very source and root of our lives.

Ephesians 3:16-17
The Passion Translation

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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