

Wednesday, February 17, 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:  
Oh God, The Holy Spirit,  
come to us, and among us;  
come as the wind, and cleanse us;  
come as the fire, and burn;  
come as the dew, and refresh;  
convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives to  
our great good and to your greater glory;  
and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

[UM Book of Worship.]

+ [Psalm 51:1-17](#) NRSV

***You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.***

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.

<sup>5</sup> Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

<sup>9</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

<sup>15</sup> O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup> For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be  
pleased.

<sup>17</sup> The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not  
despise.

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

***You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.***

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21** CEV

When you do good deeds, don't try to show off. If you do, you won't get a reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>When you give to the poor, don't blow a loud horn. That's what show-offs do in the meeting places and on the street corners, because they are always looking for praise. I can assure you that they already have their reward.

<sup>3</sup>When you give to the poor, don't let anyone know about it. <sup>4</sup>Then your gift will be given in secret. Your Father knows what is done in secret, and he will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>When you pray, don't be like those show-offs who love to stand up and pray in the meeting places and on the street corners. They do this just to look good. I can assure you that they already have their reward.

<sup>6</sup>When you pray, go into a room alone and close the door. Pray to your Father in private. He knows what is done in private, and he will reward you.

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:**

**FRANCES ELIZABETH CAROLINE WILLARD**

Willard was the longtime president of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) from 1879 to her death, and one of the most famous reformers of nineteenth-century America. Born in 1839, she grew to young womanhood in Evanston, Illinois in the midst of a strong, liberal Methodist community that helped her to form a good character, the continuous goal of her life. Her Methodist faith grounded her life and impelled her always outward and onward toward a new social vision.

Willard's teenage wish to "be good and do good" guided her reform career, whether as dean of women at Northwestern University when the school first admitted women in the early 1870' s, or as an organizer of the WCTU during the mid-1870' s. When she became president of the WCTU, she brought with her into the office her determination to work for a broad range of women's rights reforms, including woman suffrage, women's economic independence, and women's ecclesiastical rights. She believed in and called unceasingly for women's self-development: women's right to be and do whatever they discerned that God called them to do.

For Willard and her organization, the aim of prohibition of the use of alcohol and other drugs, and the elevation of women to a status equal to that of men was a means to the end of creating a new age where men and women could work together as partners in building a world that was just, peaceful, and harmonious -- what Willard understood to be the kingdom of God realized on earth. In "The Woman's Cause is Man's" published in 1892 in Arena, a reform journal, Willard wrote of her vision of a partnership of women and men, and its basis in their

common spiritual nature: The noblest way in which to think of men or women is to think first of their more enduring nature, their spiritual part, that which all human beings have in common . . . . The more we can think of each other on this plane the nobler will be our treatment of each other, because we cannot help reverencing the spiritual for the reason that it is the highest, it is the most enduring, it is the most godlike. All else will some day fall away from us, but spirituality is an undying characteristic.

\* For All the Saints

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT:**

**FRANCES ELIZABETH CAROLINE WILLARD**

God our Hope, in troubled days you send your Spirit upon daughters and sons, the young and the old, and fill them with visions, dreams, and reforming zeal: Make your will known to us again, as you did through your prophet[ s] Name, that all your people may call upon you and be saved, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, from generation to generation. 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 THOSE WHO MOURN

***Gracious God, as your son wept with Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, look with compassion this day on those who grieve. Grant them the assurance of your presence now and faith in your eternal goodness, that in them may be fulfilled the promise that those who mourn shall be comforted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

United Methodist Hymnal - *adapted*

+ PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which

beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S CREATION

***Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.***

+ **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**

I pray that God, the source of all hope, will infuse our lives with an abundance of joy and peace in the midst of our faith, so that our hope will overflow through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Romans 15:13 *THE VOICE*

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

Unless otherwise noted, prayers used in morning prayer recordings are from the *Book of Common Prayer* under public domain.

All biographical information and prayers cited \* **For All the Saints** are;  
“Reprinted from *For All the Saints: A Calendar of Commemorations for United Methodists*, 2nd edition, editor Heather Josselyn-Cranson, © 2013 by the Order of Saint Luke. Used by permission.”

All prayers cited \* **OSL** are;  
“Reprinted from *The Book of OFFICES and SERVICES of The Order of Saint Luke*, © 2012 by The Order of Saint Luke. Used by permission of OSL Publications.”

All collects cited \* **Holy Women, Holy Men** are reprinted from  
*Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints*  
Copyright © 2010 by The Church Pension Fund

All collects cited \* **Lesser Feasts and Fasts** are reprinted from  
*Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006*  
Copyright © 2010 by The Church Pension Fund