

Wednesday, February 24, 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** - *The Second Song of Isaiah*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord,
and he will have compassion,
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,

Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:6-11

+ **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 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*.

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:** **Matthew 4:1-11** CEV

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert, so that the devil could test him. ² After Jesus had gone without eating for forty days and nights, he was very hungry. ³ Then the

devil came to him and said, "If you are God's Son, tell these stones to turn into bread."

⁴ Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say:
'No one can live only on food.
People need every word
that God has spoken.'"

⁵ Next, the devil took Jesus to the holy city and had him stand on the highest part of the temple. ⁶ The devil said, "If you are God's Son, jump off. The Scriptures say:
'God will give his angels
orders about you.
They will catch you
in their arms,
and you won't hurt
your feet on the stones.'"

⁷ Jesus answered, "The Scriptures also say, 'Don't try to test the Lord your God!'"

⁸ Finally, the devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms on earth and their power. ⁹ The devil said to him, "I will give all this to you, if you will bow down and worship me."

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Go away Satan! The Scriptures say:
'Worship the Lord your God
and serve only him.'"

¹¹ Then the devil left Jesus, and angels came to help him.

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*.**

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: MATTHIAS**

Matthias was chosen an apostle to replace Judas Iscariot after his betrayal of Jesus. In the account in Acts 1: 15-26, Peter suggests that Judas' replacement must be someone who had been with Jesus from his baptism until the ascension and was a witness to the resurrection. Two qualified candidates come forward, Joseph Barsabbas and Matthias (because of this, the early church tradition placed Matthias in the seventy sent out by Jesus to preach even though his name is not mentioned there or elsewhere in the New Testament). The disciples then use the Old Testament practice of casting lots. The two names are written on stones, which, after a prayer for guidance,

are shaken together in a bag. The first stone to come out indicates that Matthias is chosen. "Matthias," in fact, means "gift of God," fitting for the one believed by the early Christian community to have been selected by God. He is an example to us that willing witnesses will come forth to serve the Lord in the place of those who turn away.

According to tradition, Matthias' mission field included Palestine, Cappodocia, and Ethiopia. Origen referred to a Gospel of Matthias, although no such text has survived. One apocryphal story claims that while in Macedonia, Matthias drank a poison that was supposed to cause blindness. Not only was he unharmed, he healed 250 persons who had been blinded by the poison. In another story he is bound and thrown into prison but the Lord appears in a great light and sets him free. After this, Matthias tells his tormentors, "Ye shall go to Hell alive," and the earth opens and swallows them. As a result of this miracle, many others are then converted.[cvii]

Tradition also holds Matthias to have been a martyr, although the stories of his martyrdom vary, one claiming that he was crucified and then hacked with a halberd (or ax), another that he was beheaded and stoned. He is

remembered on this day in the Episcopal and Lutheran calendars, but his celebration has recently been moved in the Roman Catholic Church to May 14th, between the Ascension and Pentecost, the period during which he was chosen to be an apostle.

* For All the Saints

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: MATTHIAS**

Gift-giving God, as you guided the Church to see in Matthias the calling of an apostle, so call forth and make evident your gifts in all your people that together we who have become witnesses to your redemption may carry on the work of the Christ's apostles, in the power of your Holy Spirit. **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*

+ PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

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. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER: WEDNESDAY THE FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Bless us, O God, in this holy season, in which our hearts seek your help and healing; and so purify us by your discipline that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;

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.***

+ **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

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