

Friday, March 12, 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 First Song of Isaiah*

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be a-fraid.
**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure de-fense,
and he will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with re-joicing
from the springs of sal-vation.

And on that day you shall say,

Give thanks to the Lord and call u-pon his *Name*;

Make his deeds known a-mong the peoples;

see that they remember that his Name is ex-alted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great *things*,
and this is known in all the *world*.

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel.**

Isaiah 12:2-6

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;
And also with you.

Let us pray:

We give you hearty thanks for the rest of the past night and
for the gift of a new day, with its opportunities of pleasing
you. Grant that we may so pass its hours in the perfect
freedom of your service, that at eventide we may again give
thanks unto you. **Amen.**

[UM Book of Worship]

+ **Psalm 88** NRSV

O LORD, God of my salvation,
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,
² let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.

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³ For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;
I am like those who have no help,
⁵ like those forsaken among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.
⁶ You have put me in the depths of the Pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
⁷ Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves. *Selah*
⁸ You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a thing of horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
⁹ my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call on you, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
¹⁰ Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the shades rise up to praise you? *Selah*
¹¹ Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
¹² Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

¹³ But I, O LORD, cry out to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
¹⁴ O LORD, why do you cast me off?
Why do you hide your face from me?
¹⁵ Wretched and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate. ^[a]
¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your dread assaults destroy me.
¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long;
from all sides they close in on me.
¹⁸ You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;
my companions are in darkness.

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** Jeremiah 11:1-8,14-20 CEV

11 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ² Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ³ You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Cursed be anyone who does not heed the words of this covenant, ⁴ which I commanded your ancestors when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron-smelter, saying, Listen to my

voice, and do all that I command you. So shall you be my people, and I will be your God, ⁵ that I may perform the oath that I swore to your ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as at this day. Then I answered, “So be it, LORD.”

⁶ And the LORD said to me: Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: Hear the words of this covenant and do them. ⁷ For I solemnly warned your ancestors when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, warning them persistently, even to this day, saying, Obey my voice. ⁸ Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone walked in the stubbornness of an evil will. So I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not.

¹⁴ As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble. ¹⁵ What right has my beloved in my house, when she has done vile deeds? Can vows^[a] and sacrificial flesh avert your doom? Can you then exult? ¹⁶ The LORD once called you, “A green olive tree, fair with goodly fruit”; but with the roar of a great tempest he will set fire to it, and its branches will be consumed. ¹⁷ The LORD of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced evil against you, because of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of

Judah have done, provoking me to anger by making offerings to Baal.

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: GREGORY THE GREAT

Gregory was pope from 590-604, and is remembered as one of the most influential administrators and pastors in the history of the western church.

Born into a wealthy and powerful Italian family c. 540, Gregory rose quickly in the Roman civil service at the time when the Empire was crumbling in Western Europe due to the barbarian invasions. He decided to turn his back on his earlier life, however, when in 575 he transformed his family

estate into a monastery and devoted himself to the life of contemplation. His respite from the world was short lived, however, for in 579 the pope made Gregory his envoy to the Byzantine Emperor in Constantinople. Upon his return to Rome he himself became pope.

Gregory's great work Pastoral Care deals with the qualifications and duties of one who would exercise pastoral rule over God's flock. It is a fascinating window into the heart of a person who had known both the quiet of the monastery and the noisome bustle of the papal court, and whose eyes were open to the satisfactions and temptations of either place. Gregory can, for example, warn against those who would seek pastoral office for the glory and recognition it brings, while in the next breath denouncing those who have been gifted by God with great skill at preaching, teaching, and leadership, yet who retire from the world, hiding their light under a bushel.

Indeed, it is the ideas of balance and accommodation that shine throughout the work. Commenting on the different subjects of one's pastoral care, he asks

What else are the minds of attentive hearers but . . . the taut strings of a harp, which the skillful harpist plays with a variety of strokes . . . ? Hence,

too, every teacher, in order to edify all in the one virtue of charity, must touch the hearts of his hearers by using one and the same doctrine, but not by giving to all one and the same exhortation.
[cxix]

Those for whom we would care have each their own graces, gifts, needs, and problems. Gregory, the recluse who became pope, had learned the patience of serving God in the very different circumstances of his own life. He taught us the similar patience of caring response to the differing circumstances of those to whom we are called to minister.

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: GREGORY THE GREAT**

Heavenly Father, Shepherd of your people, we thank you for your servant Gregory the Great, who was faithful in the care and nurture of your flock; and we pray that, following his example and the teaching of his holy life, we may by your grace grow into the stature of the fullness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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+ **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,
and also with you.

Let us pray: *(stop and pray for those on your heart today)*

+ FOR HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL

For those we have lifted up today, may God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns 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.**

+ PRAYERS FOR CONGRESS

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: We implore you so to guide and bless our Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled and in the Legislature of this State, that they may enact such laws as shall please you, to the glory of your Name and the welfare of this people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in

our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

+ COLLECT: FRIDAY IN THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Grant us, O Lord our Strength, a true love of your holy Name; so that, trusting in your grace, we may fear no earthly evil, nor fix our hearts on earthly goods, but may rejoice in your full salvation; 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**

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand. **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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