

Friday, March 19, 2021

Fourth Friday in Lent:

Jesus said, "If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Mark 8:34

+ **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. * OS�

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]

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+ **WORD:** Jeremiah 23:1-8 CEV

The LORD said:

¹ You leaders of my people are like shepherds that kill and scatter the sheep. ² You were supposed to take care of my people, but instead you chased them away. So now I'll really take care of you, and believe me, you will pay for your crimes!

³ I will bring the rest of my people home from the lands where I have scattered them, and they will grow into a mighty nation. ⁴ I promise to choose leaders who will care for them like real shepherds. All of my people will be there, and they will never again be frightened.

⁵ Someday I will appoint
an honest king
from the family of David,
a king who will be wise
and rule with justice.
⁶ As long as he is king,
Israel will have peace,
and Judah will be safe.
The name of this king will be
"The LORD Gives Justice."

⁷ A time will come when you will again worship me. But you will no longer call me the Living God who rescued Israel from Egypt. ⁸ Instead, you will call me the Living God who rescued you from the land in the north and from all the other countries where I had forced you to go. And you will once again live in your own land.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+ **Psalm 102** NRSV

***Incline your ear to me;
answer me speedily in the day when I call.***

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD;
let my cry come to you.
² Do not hide your face from me
in the day of my distress.
Incline your ear to me;
answer me speedily in the day when I call.
³ For my days pass away like smoke,
and my bones burn like a furnace.
⁴ My heart is stricken and withered like grass;
I am too wasted to eat my bread.

⁵ Because of my loud groaning
my bones cling to my skin.
⁶ I am like an owl of the wilderness,
like a little owl of the waste places.
⁷ I lie awake;
I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.
⁸ All day long my enemies taunt me;
those who deride me use my name for a curse.
⁹ For I eat ashes like bread,
and mingle tears with my drink,
¹⁰ because of your indignation and anger;
for you have lifted me up and thrown me aside.
¹¹ My days are like an evening shadow;
I wither away like grass.
¹² But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever;
your name endures to all generations.
¹³ You will rise up and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to favor it;
the appointed time has come.
¹⁴ For your servants hold its stones dear,
and have pity on its dust.
¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the LORD,
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
¹⁶ For the LORD will build up Zion;

he will appear in his glory.
¹⁷ He will regard the prayer of the destitute,
and will not despise their prayer.
¹⁸ Let this be recorded for a generation to come,
so that a people yet unborn may praise the LORD:
¹⁹ that he looked down from his holy height,
from heaven the LORD looked at the earth,
²⁰ to hear the groans of the prisoners,
to set free those who were doomed to die;
²¹ so that the name of the LORD may be declared in Zion,
and his praise in Jerusalem,
²² when peoples gather together,
and kingdoms, to worship the LORD.
²³ He has broken my strength in midcourse;
he has shortened my days.
²⁴ "O my God," I say, "do not take me away
at the midpoint of my life,
you whose years endure
throughout all generations."
²⁵ Long ago you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
²⁶ They will perish, but you endure;
they will all wear out like a garment.

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You change them like clothing, and they pass away;

²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

²⁸ The children of your servants shall live secure;
their offspring shall be established in your presence.

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

***Incline your ear to me;
answer me speedily in the day when I call.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** John 6:52-59 CEV

⁵² They started arguing with each other and asked, “How can he give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³ Jesus answered:

I tell you for certain that you won't live unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man. ⁵⁴ But if you do eat my flesh and drink my blood, you will have eternal life, and I will raise you to life on the last day. ⁵⁵ My flesh is the true food, and my blood is the true drink. ⁵⁶ If you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you are one with me, and I am one with you.

⁵⁷ The living Father sent me, and I have life because of him. Now everyone who eats my flesh will live because of me.

⁵⁸ The bread that comes down from heaven isn't like what your ancestors ate. They died, but whoever eats this bread will live forever.

⁵⁹ Jesus was teaching in a Jewish place of worship in Capernaum when he said these things.

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*.

+ 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: JOSEPH**

Joseph is revered as the faithful husband of Mary and caring stepfather of Jesus. In the Gospels he appears mostly in the birth narratives in Matthew and Luke. Matthew traces the lineage of Joseph back to David. He probably owned

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property in Bethlehem, so he and Mary went there for the census.

Joseph is often depicted holding a lily and a staff. When remembering him, we can think of his caring and loving parenting, his integrity as a husband, and his courage to follow visions.

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: JOSEPH**

God, who husbands the earth and establishes families for the glory of your name: Grant that with Joseph, Mary's husband, we may heed your warnings and follow your promptings, and so protect what is vulnerable and precious, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. 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)*

+ 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.

+ PRAYERS FOR THE OPPRESSED

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

+ PRAYERS FOR THE GREATER NJ CONFERENCE

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Greater New Jersey Conference to a sizable fellowship of faith. Bless Bishop Schol, our District Superintendents, other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached

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and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP - adapted

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

+ COLLECT: FRIDAY IN THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

O God, you have given us the Good News of your abounding love in your Son Jesus Christ: So fill our hearts with thankfulness that we may rejoice to proclaim the good tidings we have received; 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.***

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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**

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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