

Friday, March 26, 2021

Fifth 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. * 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]

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+ **WORD:** Jeremiah 29:1, 4-13 CEV

¹⁻² I had been left in Jerusalem when King Nebuchadnezzar took many of the people of Jerusalem and Judah to Babylon as prisoners, including King Jehoiachin, his mother, his officials, and the metal workers and others in Jerusalem who were skilled in making things. So I wrote a letter to the prophets, the priests, the leaders, and the rest of our people in Babylon.

⁴ that the LORD All-Powerful, the God of Israel, had said:

I had you taken from Jerusalem to Babylon. Now I tell you ⁵ to settle there and build houses. Plant gardens and eat what you grow in them. ⁶ Get married and have children, then help your sons find wives and help your daughters find husbands, so they can have children as well. I want your numbers to grow, not to get smaller.

⁷ Pray for peace in Babylon and work hard to make it prosperous. The more successful that nation is, the better off you will be.

⁸⁻⁹ Some of your people there in Babylon are fortunetellers, and you have asked them to tell you what will happen in the future. But they will only lead you astray. And don't let the prophets fool you, either. They speak in my name, but they are liars. I have not spoken to them.

¹⁰ After Babylon has been the strongest nation for seventy years, I will be kind and bring you back to Jerusalem, just as I have promised. ¹¹ I will bless you with a future filled with hope—a future of success, not of suffering. ¹² You will turn back to me and ask for help, and I will answer your prayers. ¹³ You will worship me with all your heart, and I will be with you

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+ **Psalm 95** NRSV

***For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,***

- ¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- ³ For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

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⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

⁷ For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

⁸ Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways."

¹¹ Therefore in my anger I swore,
"They shall not enter my rest."

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

***For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** John 11:1-27 CEV

¹⁻² A man by the name of Lazarus was sick in the village of Bethany. He had two sisters, Mary and Martha. This was the same Mary who later poured perfume on the Lord's head and wiped his feet with her hair. ³ The sisters sent a message to the Lord and told him that his good friend Lazarus was sick.

⁴ When Jesus heard this, he said, "His sickness won't end in death. It will bring glory to God and his Son."

⁵ Jesus loved Martha and her sister and brother. ⁶ But he stayed where he was for two more days. ⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "Now we will go back to Judea."

⁸ "Teacher," they said, "the people there want to stone you to death! Why do you want to go back?"

⁹ Jesus answered, "Aren't there twelve hours in each day? If you walk during the day, you will have light from the sun, and you won't stumble. ¹⁰ But if you walk during the night, you will stumble, because you don't have any light." ¹¹ Then he told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, and I am going there to wake him up."

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¹² They replied, “Lord, if he is asleep, he will get better.”

¹³ Jesus really meant that Lazarus was dead, but they thought he was talking only about sleep.

¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead! ¹⁵ I am glad that I wasn’t there, because now you will have a chance to put your faith in me. Let’s go to him.”

¹⁶ Thomas, whose nickname was “Twin,” said to the other disciples, “Come on. Let’s go, so we can die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus got to Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many people had come from the city to comfort Martha and Mary because their brother had died.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus had arrived, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² Yet even now I know that God will do anything you ask.”

²³ Jesus told her, “Your brother will live again!”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know that he will be raised to life on the last day, when all the dead are raised.”

²⁵ Jesus then said, “I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die.

²⁶ And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never really die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord!” she replied. “I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one we hoped would come into the world.”

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: RICHARD ALLEN**

Founding bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church,
Allen was born in 1760 in Philadelphia, the slave of a Quaker
master. Allen later passed into the hands of a Methodist
farmer and converted to Methodism when seventeen: "All of

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a sudden my dungeon shook, my chains flew off and, glory to God, I cried . . . enough for me -- the Savior died!" he later remembered. He purchased his freedom and began to travel as a lay preacher, returning to Philadelphia in 1786 where he joined St. George's Methodist Church's growing black membership. When racism reared its ugly head, he sought to establish a black Methodist congregation that would be free of the discrimination experienced in St. George's.

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: RICHARD ALLEN**

Pillar of Cloud and Pillar of Fire, you always raise among your imprisoned people leaders of burning vision like Richard Allen. Part the dead waters of the past and bring all your people to a new land of promise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

+ PRAYER FOR

Those Who Suffer For The Sake Of Conscience

O God our Father, whose Son forgave his enemies while he was suffering shame and death: Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience; when they are accused, save them from speaking in hate; when they are rejected, save them from bitterness; when they are imprisoned, save them from despair; and to us your servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our merciful and righteous Judge. Amen.

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+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR CONSERVATION of Natural Resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ COLLECT: FRIDAY IN THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

O Lord, you relieve our necessity out of the abundance of your great riches: Grant that we may accept with joy the salvation you bestow, and manifest it to all the world by the

quality of our lives; through Jesus Christ 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.***

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***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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