

Monday, March 22, 2021

Fifth Monday in Lent:

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins,
God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:8, 9*

+ **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 OF THANKSGIVING**

It is good to give thanks to the *LORD*,
to sing praises to your name, O Most *High*;

**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithful-ness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.**

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

**How great are your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are ver-y deep!**

Psalm 92:1-5

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

**Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy
thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which
no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no
unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us
also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you,
diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a
faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT.)

+ **WORD:** Jeremiah 24:1-10 CEV

24 The LORD spoke to me in a vision after King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia had come to Judah and taken King Jehoiachin, his officials, and all the skilled workers back to Babylonia. In this vision I saw two baskets of figs in front of the LORD's temple. ²One basket was full of very good figs that ripened early, and the other was full of rotten figs that were not fit to eat.

³“Jeremiah,” the LORD asked, “what do you see?”

“Figs,” I said. “Some are very good, but the others are too rotten to eat.”

⁴Then the LORD told me to say:

⁵People of Judah, the good figs stand for those of you I sent away as exiles to Babylonia, ⁶where I am watching over them. Then someday I will bring them back to this land. I will plant them, instead of uprooting them, and I will build them up, rather than tearing them down. ⁷I will give them a desire to know me and to be my people. They will want me to be their God, and they will turn back to me with all their heart.

⁸The rotten figs stand for King Zedekiah of Judah, his officials, and all the others who were not taken away to Babylonia, whether they stayed here in Judah or went to live

in Egypt. ⁹I will punish them with a terrible disaster, and everyone on earth will tremble when they hear about it. I will force the people of Judah to go to foreign countries, where they will be cursed and insulted. ¹⁰War and hunger and disease will strike them, until they finally disappear from the land that I gave them and their ancestors.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+ **Psalm 31** NRSV

***Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.***

¹In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

²Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.

³You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

⁴take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

⁵ Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

⁶ You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,
but I trust in the LORD.

⁷ I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
because you have seen my affliction;
you have taken heed of my adversities,
⁸ and have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy;
you have set my feet in a broad place.

⁹ Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also.

¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery,
and my bones waste away.

¹¹ I am the scorn of all my adversaries,
a horror to my neighbors,
an object of dread to my acquaintances;
those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹² I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³ For I hear the whispering of many—

terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me,
as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴ But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, “You are my God.”

¹⁵ My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

¹⁷ Do not let me be put to shame, O LORD,
for I call on you;
let the wicked be put to shame;
let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.

¹⁸ Let the lying lips be stilled
that speak insolently against the righteous
with pride and contempt.

¹⁹ O how abundant is your goodness
that you have laid up for those who fear you,
and accomplished for those who take refuge in you,
in the sight of everyone!

²⁰ In the shelter of your presence you hide them
from human plots;

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you hold them safe under your shelter
from contentious tongues.

²¹ Blessed be the LORD,
for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me
when I was beset as a city under siege.

²² I had said in my alarm,
“I am driven far from your sight.”

But you heard my supplications
when I cried out to you for help.

²³ Love the LORD, all you his saints.
The LORD preserves the faithful,
but abundantly repays the one who acts haughtily.

²⁴ Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the LORD.

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

***Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** John 9:1-17 CEV

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind since birth. ² Jesus' disciples asked, “Teacher, why was this man born blind? Was it because he or his parents sinned?”

³ “No, it wasn't!” Jesus answered. “But because of his blindness, you will see God work a miracle for him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do what the one who sent me wants me to do. When night comes, no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light for the world.”

⁶ After Jesus said this, he spit on the ground. He made some mud and smeared it on the man's eyes. ⁷ Then he said, “Go and wash off the mud in Siloam Pool.” The man went and washed in Siloam, which means “One Who Is Sent.” When he had washed off the mud, he could see.

⁸ The man's neighbors and the people who had seen him begging wondered if he really could be the same man.

⁹ Some of them said he was the same beggar, while others said he only looked like him. But he told them, “I am that man.”

¹⁰ “Then how can you see?” they asked.

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¹¹ He answered, "Someone named Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. He told me to go and wash it off in Siloam Pool. When I did, I could see."

¹² "Where is he now?" they asked.

"I don't know," he answered.

¹³⁻¹⁴ The day when Jesus made the mud and healed the man was a Sabbath. So the people took the man to the Pharisees. ¹⁵ They asked him how he was able to see, and he answered, "Jesus made some mud and smeared it on my eyes. Then after I washed it off, I could see."

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man Jesus doesn't come from God. If he did, he would not break the law of the Sabbath."

Others asked, "How could someone who is a sinner work such a miracle?"

Since the Pharisees could not agree among themselves, ¹⁷ they asked the man, "What do you say about this one who healed your eyes?"

"He is a prophet!" the man told them.

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.*

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COMMEMORATION: JONATHAN EDWARDS**

Unfairly known by many solely for his famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," Jonathan Edwards was a preacher, philosopher-teacher, and perhaps the most truly original American theological mind. Born in East Windsor, Connecticut in 1703, he was swept into the first Great Awakening in New England in the 1730' s, reflecting deeply out of his Calvinist heritage on the matter of conversion and the Christian life in his remarkable Treatise on the Religious Affections (1746).

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: JONATHAN EDWARDS**

God our Creator and Redeemer, anoint from among your people zealous and faithful preachers like Jonathan Edwards and give us ears to hear the gospel that your image may be fully restored in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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 A SICK PERSON

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly ask you to recognize, visit, and relieve your sick servants for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; preserve them from the temptations of the enemy; and give them patience under their affliction. In

your good time, restore them to health, and enable them to live the remainder of their lives in your awe, and to your glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER: MONDAY IN THE FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

Be gracious to your people, we entreat you, O Lord, that they, repenting day by day of the things that displease you, may be more and more filled with love of you and of your commandments; and, being supported by your grace in this life, may come to the full enjoyment of eternal life in your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

+ PRAYERS FOR UNITY OF THE CHURCH

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and harmony; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one

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Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ FOR THE RIGHT USE OF GOD'S GIFTS

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ 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 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**

God be in our head, and in our understanding.
God be in our eyes, and in our looking.
God be in our mouth, and in our speaking.
God be in our heart, and in our thinking.
God be at our end, and at our departing.

(SARUM LITURGY, ENGLAND, 13TH CENT., ALT.)

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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