

Monday, March 29, 2021

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

+ **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.**

+ **CANTICLE OF REDEMPTION**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

Psalm 130

+ **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 12:1-16 CEV

Whenever I complain
to you, LORD,
you are always fair.
But now I have questions
about your justice.
Why is life easy for sinners?
Why are they successful?
² You plant them like trees;
you let them prosper
and produce fruit.

Yet even when they praise you,
they don't mean it.

³ But you know, LORD,
how faithful I've always been,
even in my thoughts.

So drag my enemies away
and butcher them like sheep!

⁴ How long will the ground be dry
and the pasturelands parched?

The birds and animals
are dead and gone.

And all of this happened because
the people are so sinful.

They even brag, "God can't see
the sins we commit."

⁵ Jeremiah, if you get tired
in a race against people,
how can you possibly run
against horses?

If you fall in open fields,
what will happen in the forest
along the Jordan River?

⁶ Even your own family

has turned against you.
They act friendly,
but don't trust them.
They're out to get you,
and so is everyone else.

⁷ I loved my people and chose them
as my very own.
But now I will reject them
and hand them over
to their enemies.

⁸ My people have turned against me
and roar at me like lions.
That's why I hate them.

⁹ My people are like a hawk
surrounded and attacked
by other hawks.

Tell the wild animals
to come and eat their fill.

¹⁰ My beautiful land is ruined
like a field or a vineyard
trampled by shepherds
and stripped bare
by their flocks.

¹¹ Every field I see lies barren,
and no one cares.

¹² A destroying army
marches along desert roads
and attacks everywhere.
They are my deadly sword;
no one is safe from them.

¹³ My people, you planted wheat,
but because I was furious,
I let only weeds grow.
You wore yourselves out
for nothing!

¹⁴ The LORD said:

I gave this land to my people Israel, but enemies around it
have attacked and robbed it. So I will uproot them from
their own countries just as I will uproot Judah from its
land. ¹⁵ But later, I will have pity on these nations and
bring them back to their own lands. ¹⁶ They once taught
my people to worship Baal. But if they admit I am the only
true God, and if they let my people teach them how to
worship me, these nations will also become my people.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+ **Psalm 51:1-17** NRSV

***You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.***

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.

⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be
pleased.

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

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

***You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** John 12:9-19 CEV

⁹ A lot of people came when they heard that Jesus was there. They also wanted to see Lazarus, because Jesus had raised him from death. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus. ¹¹ He was the reason that many of the Jewish leaders were turning from them and putting their faith in Jesus.

¹² The next day a large crowd was in Jerusalem for Passover. When they heard that Jesus was coming for the festival, ¹³ they took palm branches and went out to greet him. They shouted,

“Hooray!

God bless the one who comes

in the name of the Lord!

God bless the King

of Israel!”

¹⁴ Jesus found a donkey and rode on it, just as the Scriptures say,

¹⁵ “People of Jerusalem,
don’t be afraid!

Your King is now coming,

and he is riding

on a donkey.”

¹⁶ At first, Jesus' disciples did not understand. But after he had been given his glory, they remembered all this.

Everything had happened exactly as the Scriptures said it would.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ A crowd had come to meet Jesus because they had seen him call Lazarus out of the tomb. They kept talking about him and this miracle. ¹⁹ But the Pharisees said to each other, “There is nothing that can be done! Everyone in the world is following Jesus.”

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: Charles Wesley**

Born in 1707, Charles was the youngest son of Samuel and Susanna Wesley. Together with John his brother and George Whitefield he formed the Oxford Holy Club, with its emphasis on Bible study, sacramental spirituality, and social outreach. Ordained into the priesthood, he joined John in a missionary journey to Georgia. There he prepared the first hymnal published in America, the Charleston Hymnal of 1737. Unhappy, however, he soon left that work and made his way back to England. Influenced by the Moravians, he continued to struggle with his inner spirituality. He received the assurance of salvation he was seeking on Pentecost Sunday, May 21, 1738, though he writes in his journal, "I knew not how or when." Two days later he began to write a hymn. Three days later his brother John had his Aldersgate experience.

As the movement developed, Charles traveled, preached, pastored, and -- most important for the whole church -- wrote. He was already an able poet, but his newfound spiritual conviction provided the motivation for the outpouring of over six thousand hymn texts using at least forty-five different poetic meters. His texts are so filled with scriptural allusions that scholars are still identifying them.

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: Charles Wesley**

Almighty and passionate God, the source of all seers and poets who give expression to the deep mystery of faith, you inspired Charles Wesley to pour out his love for you in his vocation as poet, pastor, and preacher: Grant that, continually encouraged by his hymns and example, we too may rise up to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* For All the Saints

3/29/21

+ **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 HOLY WEEK

Almighty God, whose dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way

of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen***

+ PRAYER FOR IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our 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 and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; 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.***

+ **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.**

3/29/21

+ **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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