

Saturday, March 20, 2021

Fourth Saturday 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. 1 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 HYMN**

O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
it fills the heart with ecstasy,
**that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake!**

For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore,
**for us temptation sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.**

UM HYMNAL #267

* **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

**Dawn from on high,
Your light illumines all our days.
Awaken us to your visitations throughout this day.
Be merciful in us for the sake of others.
Make us fearless when confronting injustice and
need, that we may give you glory in the power of the
Spirit. Amen.**

* For All the Saints

* **WORD:** **Jeremiah 23:9-15** CEV

⁹ When I think of the prophets,
I am shocked, and I tremble
 like someone drunk,
because of the LORD
 and his sacred words.

¹⁰ Those unfaithful prophets
misuse their power
 all over the country.
So God turned the pasturelands
 into scorching deserts.

¹¹ The LORD told me to say:
You prophets and priests
think so little of me, the LORD,
 that you even sin
 in my own temple!

¹² Now I will punish you
 with disaster,
and you will slip and fall
 in the darkness.

I, the LORD, have spoken.

¹³ The prophets in Samaria
 were disgusting to me,

because they preached
in the name of Baal
 and led my people astray.
¹⁴ And you prophets in Jerusalem
 are even worse.
You're unfaithful in marriage
 and never tell the truth.
You even lead others to sin
instead of helping them
 turn back to me.

You and the people of Jerusalem
are evil
like Sodom
 and Gomorrah.

¹⁵ You prophets in Jerusalem
 have spread evil everywhere.
That's why I, the LORD, promise
to give you bitter poison
 to eat and drink.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 107:33-43](#) NRSV

***Let those who are wise give heed to these things,
and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.***

- ³³ He turns rivers into a desert,
springs of water into thirsty ground,
³⁴ a fruitful land into a salty waste,
because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.
³⁵ He turns a desert into pools of water,
a parched land into springs of water.
³⁶ And there he lets the hungry live,
and they establish a town to live in;
³⁷ they sow fields, and plant vineyards,
and get a fruitful yield.
³⁸ By his blessing they multiply greatly,
and he does not let their cattle decrease.
³⁹ When they are diminished and brought low
through oppression, trouble, and sorrow,
⁴⁰ he pours contempt on princes
and makes them wander in trackless wastes;
⁴¹ but he raises up the needy out of distress,
and makes their families like flocks.
⁴² The upright see it and are glad;
and all wickedness stops its mouth.

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

***43 Let those who are wise give heed to these things,
and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** **John 6:60-71** CEV

⁶⁰ Many of Jesus' disciples heard him and said, "This is too hard for anyone to understand."

⁶¹ Jesus knew that his disciples were grumbling. So he asked, "Does this bother you? ⁶² What if you should see the Son of Man go up to heaven where he came from?"

⁶³ The Spirit is the one who gives life! Human strength can do nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are from that life-giving Spirit. ⁶⁴ But some of you refuse to have faith in me." Jesus said this, because from the beginning he knew who would have faith in him. He also knew which one would betray him.

⁵ Then Jesus said, “You cannot come to me, unless the Father makes you want to come. That is why I have told these things to all of you.”

⁶⁶ Because of what Jesus said, many of his disciples turned their backs on him and stopped following him.

⁶⁷ Jesus then asked his twelve disciples if they were going to leave him. ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered, “Lord, there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life.

⁶⁹ We have faith in you, and we are sure that you are God’s Holy One.”

⁷⁰ Jesus told his disciples, “I chose all twelve of you, but one of you is a demon!” ⁷¹ Jesus was talking about Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. He would later betray Jesus, even though he was one of the twelve disciples.

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.*

+ **COMMEMORATION: Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (687)**

Cuthbert is among the better-known early British saints, owing to Bede's account of his life, to stories of the miraculous preservation of his body after death, and to the transfer of his remains and other relics to the Cathedral of Durham, where they rest to this day.

Cuthbert grew up like any other Northumbrian boy, as Bede tells it, fully as committed to games, pranks, and competition as his peers, with no proclivities toward monastic life. That changed in his seventeenth year, when, on his regular night watch as a shepherd, he saw angels descending to accompany a departing soul to heaven. Immediately, he resolved to enter a monastery. Later he learned that his vision coincided with the death of Aidan, first bishop of Lindisfarne, and founder of the monastery there.

* For All the Saints

+ **COLLECT: Cuthbert of Lindisfarne**

Gracious God, our Shepherd, we thank you for raising up Cuthbert of Lindisfarne as bishop in your church. Remembering his faithfulness and care, fill all shepherds of your church with truth in doctrine, fidelity in Word and Sacrament, and boldness and vision in leading the

people, 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)*

* PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to those we pray for this day, the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYERS FOR THE GOOD USE OF LEISURE

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that

our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION (PARISH)

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* 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: Saturday In the Fourth Week of Lent

Mercifully hear our prayers, O Lord, and spare all those who confess their sins to you; that those whose

consciences are accused by sin may by your merciful pardon be absolved; 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 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.***

* **BLESSING**

And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. ***Amen.***

Philippians 1:9-11 NRSV

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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