

Saturday, March 27, 2021

Fifth 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 31:27-34** CEV

²⁷ Someday, Israel and Judah will be my field where my people and their livestock will grow. ²⁸ In the past, I took care to uproot them, to tear them down, and to destroy them. But when that day comes, I will take care to plant them and help them grow. ²⁹ No longer will anyone go around saying,

“Sour grapes eaten by parents
leave a sour taste in the mouths
of their children.”

³⁰ When that day comes, only those who eat sour grapes will get the sour taste, and only those who sin will be put to death.

³¹ The LORD said:

The time will surely come when I will make a new agreement with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² It will be different from the agreement I made with their ancestors when I led them out of Egypt. Although I was their God, they broke that agreement.

³³ Here is the new agreement that I, the LORD, will make with the people of Israel:

“I will write my laws
on their hearts and minds.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴ “No longer will they have to teach one another to obey me. I, the LORD, promise that all of them will obey me, ordinary people and rulers alike. I will forgive their sins and forget the evil things they have done.”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **Psalm 144** NRSV

***I will sing a new song to you, O God;
upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,***

¹ Blessed be the LORD, my rock,
who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;
² my rock and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,
my shield, in whom I take refuge,
who subdues the peoples under me.

³ O LORD, what are human beings that you regard them,
or mortals that you think of them?

⁴ They are like a breath;
their days are like a passing shadow.

⁵ Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down;
touch the mountains so that they smoke.

⁶ Make the lightning flash and scatter them;
send out your arrows and rout them.

⁷ Stretch out your hand from on high;
set me free and rescue me from the mighty waters,
from the hand of aliens,

⁸ whose mouths speak lies,
and whose right hands are false.

⁹ I will sing a new song to you, O God;
upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,

¹⁰ the one who gives victory to kings,
who rescues his servant David.

¹¹ Rescue me from the cruel sword,
and deliver me from the hand of aliens,

whose mouths speak lies,
and whose right hands are false.

¹² May our sons in their youth
be like plants full grown,

our daughters like corner pillars,
cut for the building of a palace.

¹³ May our barns be filled,
with produce of every kind;
may our sheep increase by thousands,
by tens of thousands in our fields,

¹⁴ and may our cattle be heavy with young.
May there be no breach in the walls, no exile,
and no cry of distress in our streets.

¹⁵ Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall;
happy are the people whose God is the LORD.

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

***I will sing a new song to you, O God;
upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** John 12:37-50 CEV

³⁷ He had worked a lot of miracles among the people, but
they were still not willing to have faith in him. ³⁸ This

happened so that what the prophet Isaiah had said would come true,

“Lord, who has believed
our message?
And who has seen
your mighty strength?”

³⁹ The people could not have faith in Jesus, because Isaiah had also said,

⁴⁰ “The Lord has blinded
the eyes of the people,
and he has made
the people stubborn.
He did this so that they
could not see
or understand,
and so that they
would not turn to the Lord
and be healed.”

⁴¹ Isaiah said this, because he saw the glory of Jesus and spoke about him. ⁴² Even then, many of the leaders put their faith in Jesus, but they did not tell anyone about it. The Pharisees had already given orders for the people not to have anything to do with anyone who had faith in

Jesus. ⁴³ And besides, the leaders liked praise from others more than they liked praise from God.

⁴⁴ In a loud voice Jesus said:

Everyone who has faith in me also has faith in the one who sent me. ⁴⁵ And everyone who has seen me has seen the one who sent me. ⁴⁶ I am the light that has come into the world. No one who has faith in me will stay in the dark.

⁴⁷ I am not the one who will judge those who refuse to obey my teachings. I came to save the people of this world, not to be their judge. ⁴⁸ But everyone who rejects me and my teachings will be judged on the last day by what I have said. ⁴⁹ I don't speak on my own. I say only what the Father who sent me has told me to say. ⁵⁰ I know that his commands will bring eternal life. That is why I tell you exactly what the Father has told me.

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.***

* **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.

+ FOR THE HARVEST OF LANDS AND WATERS

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with abundance: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ PRAYERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may So move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; 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**

* COLLECT: Saturday In the Fifth Week of Lent

O Lord, in your goodness you bestow abundant graces on your elect: Look with favor, we entreat you, upon those who in these Lenten days are being prepared for Holy Baptism, and grant them the help of your protection; 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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