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Thursday, March 18, 2021

Fourth Thursday in Lent:

*To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness,
because we have rebelled against him and have not
obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his
laws which he set before us. Daniel 9:9, 10*

+ **MORNING 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.**

PSALM 90:14

+ **MORNING CANTICLE OF JOY**

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

**Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

**For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

PSALM 100

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

**Almighty and everlasting God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are
restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such**

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piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see life clearly and, in your service, find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. St. Augustine

+ **WORD:** Jeremiah 22:13-23 CEV

¹³ King Jehoiakim, you are doomed!

You built a palace
with large rooms upstairs.

¹⁴ You put in big windows
and used cedar paneling
and red paint.

But you were unfair
and forced the builders to work
without pay.

¹⁵ More cedar in your palace
doesn't make you a better king
than your father Josiah.
He always did right—
he gave justice to the poor
and was honest.

¹⁶ That's what it means
to truly know me.

So he lived a comfortable life
and always had enough
to eat and drink.

¹⁷ But all you think about
is how to cheat
or abuse or murder
some innocent victim.

¹⁸ Jehoiakim, no one will cry
at your funeral.
They won't turn to each other
and ask,

"Why did our great king
have to die?"

¹⁹ You will be given a burial
fit for a donkey;
your body will be dragged
outside the city gates
and tossed in the dirt.
I, the LORD, have spoken.

The LORD told me to say:

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²⁰ People of Jerusalem,
the nations you trusted
have been crushed.
Go to Lebanon and weep;
cry in the land of Bashan
and in Moab.

²¹ When times were good,
I warned you.
But you ignored me,
just as you have done
since Israel was young.

²² Now you will be disgraced
because of your sins.
Your leaders will be swept away
by the wind,
and the nations you trusted
will be captured
and dragged
to a foreign country.

²³ Those who live in the palace
paneled with cedar
will groan with pain
like women giving birth.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ [Psalm 69](#) NRSV

***Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.***

¹ Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.

² I sink in deep mire,
where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters,
and the flood sweeps over me.

³ I am weary with my crying;
my throat is parched.
My eyes grow dim
with waiting for my God.

⁴ More in number than the hairs of my head
are those who hate me without cause;
many are those who would destroy me,
my enemies who accuse me falsely.

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What I did not steal

must I now restore?

⁵ O God, you know my folly;

the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.

⁶ Do not let those who hope in you be put to shame

because of me,

O Lord GOD of hosts;

do not let those who seek you be dishonored because of

me,

O God of Israel.

⁷ It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,

that shame has covered my face.

⁸ I have become a stranger to my kindred,

an alien to my mother's children.

⁹ It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;

the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

¹⁰ When I humbled my soul with fasting,

they insulted me for doing so.

¹¹ When I made sackcloth my clothing,

I became a byword to them.

¹² I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate,

and the drunkards make songs about me.

¹³ But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD.

At an acceptable time, O God,

in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.

With your faithful help ¹⁴ rescue me

from sinking in the mire;

let me be delivered from my enemies

and from the deep waters.

¹⁵ Do not let the flood sweep over me,

or the deep swallow me up,

or the Pit close its mouth over me.

¹⁶ Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;

according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

¹⁷ Do not hide your face from your servant,

for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

¹⁸ Draw near to me, redeem me,

set me free because of my enemies.

¹⁹ You know the insults I receive,

and my shame and dishonor;

my foes are all known to you.

²⁰ Insults have broken my heart,

so that I am in despair.

I looked for pity, but there was none;

and for comforters, but I found none.

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²¹ They gave me poison for food,
and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

²² Let their table be a trap for them,
a snare for their allies.

²³ Let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see,
and make their loins tremble continually.

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

***Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.***

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** **John 6:41-51** CEV

⁴¹ The people started grumbling because Jesus had said
he was the bread that had come down from heaven.

⁴² They were asking each other, “Isn’t he Jesus, the son of
Joseph? Don’t we know his father and mother? How can
he say that he has come down from heaven?”

⁴³ Jesus told them:

Stop grumbling! ⁴⁴ No one can come to me, unless the
Father who sent me makes them want to come. But if
they do come, I will raise them to life on the last day.
⁴⁵ One of the prophets wrote, “God will teach all of them.”
And so everyone who listens to the Father and learns
from him will come to me.

⁴⁶ The only one who has seen the Father is the one who
has come from him. No one else has ever seen the
Father. ⁴⁷ I tell you for certain that everyone who has
faith in me has eternal life.

⁴⁸ I am the bread that gives life! ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate
manna in the desert, and later they died. ⁵⁰ But the bread
from heaven has come down, so that no one who eats it
will ever die. ⁵¹ I am that bread from heaven! Everyone
who eats it will live forever. My flesh is the life-giving
bread that I give to the people of this world.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God!

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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+ **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,***

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***the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

+ **COMMEMORATION: Cyril of Jerusalem**

Little is known about Cyril's life prior to his becoming the bishop of Jerusalem c. 349. We do know that he had been chosen by his predecessor Maximus. Included in the stories about his life is a legend that a luminous appearance in the heavens, called the "Apparition of the Cross," marked the beginning of his episcopate.

Cyril is remembered today by a collection of pre-baptismal catechetical lectures delivered early in his episcopacy to those who were moving through the final stages of preparation for baptism at the Easter Vigil.

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: Cyril of Jerusalem**

Good Shepherd of the flock, we thank you for faithful bishops, pastors, and abbatial leaders like Cyril of Jerusalem who teach and defend the faith. By your Word call them from maintenance to mission, from ease to vision, and from fear to courageous leadership. ***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 of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with those we lift today, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that with health being renewed, all may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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+ PRAYER FOR CLERGY and PEOPLE

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of your grace: and, that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

+ PRAYERS FOR THE POOR AND THE NEGLECTED

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, 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.**

+ 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.

+ COLLECT: Thursday In The Fourth Week Of Lent

Almighty and most merciful God, drive from us all weakness of body, mind, and spirit; that, being restored to wholeness, we may with free hearts become what you intend us to be and accomplish what you want us to do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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+ 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**

The Lord bless us and keep us;
the Lord make his face to shine upon us,
and be gracious to us;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon us,
and give us peace. **Amen.**

NUMBERS 6:24–26

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Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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