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Thursday, March 25, 2021

Fifth 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 26:1-16** CEV

Soon after Jehoiakim became king of Judah, the LORD said:

² Jeremiah, I have a message for everyone who comes from the towns of Judah to worship in my temple. Go to the temple courtyard and speak every word that I tell you. ³ Maybe the people will listen this time. And if they stop doing wrong, I will change my mind and not punish them for their sins. ⁴ Tell them that I have said:

You have refused to listen to me and to obey my laws and teachings. ⁵ Again and again I have sent my servants the prophets to preach to you, but you ignored them as well. Now I am warning you that if you don't start obeying me right away, ⁶ I will destroy this temple, just as I destroyed the town of Shiloh. Then everyone

on earth will use the name "Jerusalem" as a curse word.

⁷ The prophets, the priests, and everyone else in the temple heard what I said, ⁸⁻⁹ and as soon as I finished, they all crowded around me and started shouting, "Why did you preach that the LORD will destroy this temple, just as he destroyed Shiloh? Why did you say that Jerusalem will be empty and lie in ruins? You ought to be put to death for saying such things in the LORD's name!" Then they had me arrested.

¹⁰ The royal officers heard what had happened, and they came from the palace to the new gate of the temple to be the judges at my trial. ¹¹ While they listened, the priests and the prophets said to the crowd, "All of you have heard Jeremiah prophesy that Jerusalem will be destroyed. He deserves the death penalty."

¹²⁻¹³ Then I told the judges and everyone else:

The LORD himself sent me to tell you about the terrible things he will do to you, to Jerusalem, and to the temple. But if you change your ways and start obeying the LORD, he will change his mind.

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¹⁴ You must decide what to do with me. Just do whatever you think is right. ¹⁵ But if you put me to death, you and everyone else in Jerusalem will be guilty of murdering an innocent man, because everything I preached came from the LORD.

¹⁶ The judges and the other people told the priests and prophets, "Since Jeremiah only told us what the LORD our God had said, we don't think he deserves to die."

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God!

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ [Psalm 131](#) NRSV

***O Israel, hope in the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.***

¹ O LORD, my heart is not lifted up,
my eyes are not raised too high;
I do not occupy myself with things
too great and too marvelous for me.

² But I have calmed and quieted my soul,
like a weaned child with its mother;
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me. [\[a\]](#)

³ O Israel, hope in the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.

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

***O Israel, hope in the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.***

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD: John 10:19-42** CEV

¹⁹ The people took sides because of what Jesus had told them. ²⁰ Many of them said, "He has a demon in him! He is crazy! Why listen to him?"

²¹ But others said, "How could anyone with a demon in him say these things? No one like that could give sight to a blind person!"

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²² That winter, Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Temple Festival. ²³ One day he was walking in that part of the temple known as Solomon's Porch, ²⁴ and the people gathered all around him. They said, "How long are you going to keep us guessing? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly!"

²⁵ Jesus answered:

I have told you, and you refused to believe me. The things I do by my Father's authority show who I am. ²⁶ But since you are not my sheep, you don't believe me. ²⁷ My sheep know my voice, and I know them. They follow me, ²⁸ and I give them eternal life, so that they will never be lost. No one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father gave them to me, and he is greater than all others. No one can snatch them from his hands, ³⁰ and I am one with the Father.

³¹ Once again the Jewish leaders picked up stones in order to kill Jesus. ³² But he said, "I have shown you many good things that my Father sent me to do. Which one are you going to stone me for?"

³³ They answered, "We are not stoning you because of any good thing you did. We are stoning you because you

did a terrible thing. You are just a man, and here you are claiming to be God!"

³⁴ Jesus replied:

In your Scriptures doesn't God say, "You are gods"?

³⁵ You can't argue with the Scriptures, and God spoke to those people and called them gods. ³⁶ So why do you accuse me of a terrible sin for saying that I am the Son of God? After all, it is the Father who prepared me for this work. He is also the one who sent me into the world. ³⁷ If I don't do as my Father does, you should not believe me.

³⁸ But if I do what my Father does, you should believe because of that, even if you don't have faith in me. Then you will know for certain that the Father is one with me, and I am one with the Father.

³⁹ Again they wanted to arrest Jesus. But he escaped ⁴⁰ and crossed the Jordan to the place where John had earlier been baptizing. While Jesus was there, ⁴¹ many people came to him. They were saying, "John didn't work any miracles, but everything he said about Jesus is true."

⁴² A lot of those people also put their faith in Jesus.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

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+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.*

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***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: The Annunciation**

From earliest times in the Christian witness Mary has occupied a special place of honor as the bearer of the Incarnate One. In the mystery of God's way with us she becomes what millions of Christians call *theotokos*, "Mother of God." On this day we join that company to call to mind her obedience and consent to the divine self-communication. We are invited, by meditating upon the Lukan account (1:26-38), to ponder her whole-hearted, wonder-filled, act of vulnerability to God. Mary herself, in the face of the angel's words, realized she could not understand. Neither can we pretend to do so.

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: The Annunciation**

Almighty God, who sent the angel Gabriel to the virgin Mary and through her obedience and faith brought forth your Son: Grant that we too may remain receptive to your visitation and believe the word you speak to 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)*

+ **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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+ PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER FOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S CREATION

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of 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.

+ COLLECT: Thursday In The Fifth Week Of Lent

O God, you have called us to be your children, and have promised that those who suffer with Christ will be heirs with him of your glory: Arm us with such trust in him that we may ask no rest from his demands and have no fear in his service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and

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reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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**

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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