

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Fourth Tuesday in Lent:

*Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. Joel 2:13*

+ **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 CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Come, let us sing to the Ho-ly One; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal-vation.  
**Let us come before God's presence with thanks-giving,\*  
and raise a loud shout with psalms.**

For you, O God, are a great God,\*  
you are great a-bove all gods.  
**In your hand are the caverns of the earth,\*  
and the heights of the hills are yours also.**

The sea is yours, for you made it,\*  
and your hands have molded the dry land.  
**Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,\*  
and kneel before God, our Maker.**

For you are our God,  
and we are the people of your pasture  
and the sheep of your hand.\*  
**Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!**

PSALM 95:1-7

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

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

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Let us pray:

***New every morning is your love, great God of light, and all day long you are working for good in the world. Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.***

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT.)

+ **WORD:** **Jeremiah 17:19-27** CEV

<sup>19-20</sup> The LORD said:

Jeremiah, stand at each city gate in Jerusalem, including the one the king uses, and speak to him and everyone else. Tell them I have said:

I am the LORD, so pay attention. <sup>21-24</sup> If you value your lives, don't do any work on the Sabbath. Don't carry anything through the city gates or through the door of your house, or anywhere else. Keep the Sabbath day sacred!

I gave this command to your ancestors, but they were stubborn and refused to obey or to be corrected. But if you obey, <sup>25</sup> then Judah and Jerusalem will always be ruled by kings from David's family. The king and his

officials will ride through these gates on horses or in chariots, and the people of Judah and Jerusalem will be with them. There will always be people living in Jerusalem, <sup>26</sup> and others will come here from the nearby villages, from the towns of Judah and Benjamin, from the hill country and the foothills to the west, and from the Southern Desert. They will bring sacrifices to please me and to give me thanks, as well as offerings of grain and incense.

<sup>27</sup> But if you keep on carrying things through the city gates on the Sabbath and keep treating it as any other day, I will set fire to these gates and burn down the whole city, including the fortresses.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **Psalm 97** NRSV

***Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!***

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<sup>1</sup> The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;  
let the many coastlands be glad!  
<sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;  
righteousness and justice are the  
foundation of his throne.  
<sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him,  
and consumes his adversaries on every side.  
<sup>4</sup> His lightnings light up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.  
<sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the Lord of all the earth.  
<sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim his righteousness;  
and all the peoples behold his glory.  
<sup>7</sup> All worshipers of images are put to shame,  
those who make their boast in worthless idols;  
all gods bow down before him.  
<sup>8</sup> Zion hears and is glad,  
and the towns of Judah rejoice,  
because of your judgments, O God.  
<sup>9</sup> For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.  
<sup>10</sup> The LORD loves those who hate evil;  
he guards the lives of his faithful;

he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup> Light dawns for the righteous,  
and joy for the upright in heart.

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

**<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to his holy name!**

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD: John 6:16-27** CEV

<sup>16</sup> That evening, Jesus' disciples went down to the lake.

<sup>17</sup> They got into a boat and started across for Capernaum.  
Later that evening Jesus had still not come to them, <sup>18</sup> and  
a strong wind was making the water rough.

<sup>19</sup> When the disciples had rowed for three or four miles,  
they saw Jesus walking on the water. He kept coming  
closer to the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup> But he said, "I  
am Jesus! Don't be afraid!" <sup>21</sup> The disciples wanted to take  
him into the boat, but suddenly the boat reached the  
shore where they were headed.

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<sup>22</sup> The people who had stayed on the east side of the lake knew that only one boat had been there. They also knew that Jesus had not left in it with his disciples. But the next day <sup>23</sup> some boats from Tiberias sailed near the place where the crowd had eaten the bread for which the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> They saw that Jesus and his disciples had left. Then they got into the boats and went to Capernaum to look for Jesus. <sup>25</sup> They found him on the west side of the lake and asked, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you for certain that you are not looking for me because you saw the miracles, but because you ate all the food you wanted. <sup>27</sup> Don’t work for food that spoils. Work for food that gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give you this food, because God the Father has given him the right to do so.”

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: Lucy Rider Meyer**

“Rider Meyer founded the Methodist Deaconess Movement in America, and the Chicago Training School for Mission and Social Service. As a church leader, social worker, writer, and educator, she was remarkable for her numerous accomplishments and her breadth of education. Graduating from Oberlin College, Lucy Rider married Josiah Shelly Meyer in 1885. She received her M.D. in 1887 from the Woman's Medical College of Northwestern University. Her son was born the same year. She also studied at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

Rider Meyer wrote about the development of the office of deaconess from its origins in the New Testament and the early Church to its recent reemergence in Europe. She argued that the time had come for this ministry, uniquely performed by women, to be supported and recognized by the Methodist Church in America . . .”

\* For All the Saints

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+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT:** Lucy Rider Meyer

God our Teacher, from whom comes all true knowledge:  
So bind your words to our lives and write them on the  
tablets of our hearts, that we may not be swayed by false  
winds; and grant us faithful guides like your servant Lucy  
Rider Meyer, that our path to you be made straight and  
sure 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)*

+ PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

**Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort  
and relieve your sick servants, and give your power**

***of healing to those who minister to their needs, that  
those for whom our prayers are offered may be  
strengthened in their weakness and have confidence  
in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

+ PRAYERS FOR CITIES

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision  
of that Holy City to which the nations of the world bring  
their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the  
earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our  
civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to  
eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace  
may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order,  
and that men and women from different cultures and with  
differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of  
their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

**Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic  
Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace.  
Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct**

***it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. Amen.***

+ COLLECT: Tuesday In The Fourth Week Of Lent

O God, with you is the well of life, and in your light we see light: Quench our thirst with living water, and flood our darkened minds with heavenly light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

\* Holy Women, Holy Men

+ 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.***

+ **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.***

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+ **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**

<sup>16</sup> I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

Ephesians 3:16-17 NRSV

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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