

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Fifth 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

+ **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. * OS�
**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-va-tion.
**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 25:8-17** CEV

⁸ You refused to listen to me, ⁹ and now I will let you be attacked by nations from the north, and especially by my servant, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. You and other nearby nations will be destroyed and left in ruins forever. Everyone who sees what has happened will be shocked, but they will still make fun of you. ¹⁰ I will put an end to your parties and wedding celebrations; no one will grind grain or be here to light the lamps at night. ¹¹ This country will be as empty as a desert, because I will make all of you the slaves of the king of Babylon for seventy years.

¹² When that time is up, I will punish the king of Babylon and his people for everything they have done wrong, and I

will turn that country into a wasteland forever. ¹³ My servant Jeremiah has told you what I said I will do to Babylon and to the other nations, and he wrote it all down in this book. I will do everything I threatened. ¹⁴ I will pay back the Babylonians for every wrong they have done. Great kings from many other nations will conquer the Babylonians and force them to be slaves.

¹⁵ The LORD God of Israel showed me a vision in which he said, “Jeremiah, here is a cup filled with the wine of my anger. Take it and make every nation drink some. ¹⁶ They will vomit and act crazy, because of the war this cup of anger will bring to them.”

¹⁷ I took the cup from the LORD’s hand, and I went to the kings of the nations and made each of them drink some.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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+ **Psalm 122** NRSV

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

Peace be within your walls

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
- ² Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
- ⁴ To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- ⁵ For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers.”
- ⁸ For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
- ⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

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

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

Peace be within your walls

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD: John 9:18-41** CEV

- ¹⁸ But the Jewish leaders would not believe that the man had once been blind. They sent for his parents ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this the son that you said was born blind? How can he now see?”
- ²⁰ The man’s parents answered, “We are certain that he is our son, and we know that he was born blind. ²¹ But we don’t know how he got his sight or who gave it to him. Ask him! He is old enough to speak for himself.”
- ²²⁻²³ The man’s parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. The leaders had already agreed that no one was to have anything to do with anyone who said Jesus was the Messiah.

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²⁴ The leaders called the man back and said, “Swear by God to tell the truth! We know that Jesus is a sinner.”

²⁵ The man replied, “I don’t know if he is a sinner or not. All I know is that I used to be blind, but now I can see!”

²⁶ “What did he do to you?” the Jewish leaders asked. “How did he heal your eyes?”

²⁷ The man answered, “I have already told you once, and you refused to listen. Why do you want me to tell you again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

²⁸ The leaders insulted the man and said, “You are his follower! We are followers of Moses. ²⁹ We are sure that God spoke to Moses, but we don’t even know where Jesus comes from.”

³⁰ “How strange!” the man replied. “He healed my eyes, and yet you don’t know where he comes from. ³¹ We know that God listens only to people who love and obey him. God doesn’t listen to sinners. ³² And this is the first time in history that anyone has ever given sight to someone born blind. ³³ Jesus could not do anything unless he came from God.”

³⁴ The leaders told the man, “You have been a sinner since the day you were born! Do you think you can teach

us anything?” Then they said, “You can never come back into any of our meeting places!”

³⁵ When Jesus heard what had happened, he went and found the man. Then Jesus asked, “Do you have faith in the Son of Man?”

³⁶ He replied, “Sir, if you will tell me who he is, I will put my faith in him.”

³⁷ “You have already seen him,” Jesus answered, “and right now he is talking with you.”

³⁸ The man said, “Lord, I put my faith in you!” Then he worshiped Jesus.

³⁹ Jesus told him, “I came to judge the people of this world. I am here to give sight to the blind and to make blind everyone who can see.”

⁴⁰ When the Pharisees heard Jesus say this, they asked, “Are we blind?”

⁴¹ Jesus answered, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty. But now that you claim to see, you will keep on being guilty.”

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.*

***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:** Martin and Henry Boehm

Martin Boehm, born in a German Mennonite home in 1725, was chosen by lot in 1756 to be a preacher. The following year he was chosen a Mennonite bishop, again by lot. Influenced by George Whitefield, he joined with other evangelical ministers in "great meetings." One of these was held in 1767 at Isaac Long's barn in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. On Pentecost Sunday, Boehm preached there to an overflow crowd, among whom was a Reformed pastor, Philip William Otterbein, who rushed forward and embraced Boehm, exclaiming: "Wir sind Brüder" (we are brethren).

Martin's son Henry began to itinerate as a preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the age of 25 and was a traveling companion of Asbury. At Asbury's request

he oversaw the translation of the 1805 Discipline into German and was later appointed presiding elder and held pastorates in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT:** Martin and Henry Boehm

God our Creator and Redeemer, anoint from among your people zealous and faithful preachers like Martin and Henry Boehm and give us ears to hear the gospel that your image may be fully restored in 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)*

+ 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.

+ PRAYER FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

+ PRAYERS FOR Prisons and Correctional Institutions

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remembering all prisoners, bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. Amen.

+ COLLECT: Tuesday In The Fifth Week Of Lent

Almighty God, through the incarnate Word you have caused us to be born anew of an imperishable and eternal seed: Look with compassion upon those who are being prepared for Holy Baptism, and grant that they may be built as living stones into a spiritual temple acceptable to you; 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

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.**

+ **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**

¹⁶ 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, ¹⁷ 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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