

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

+ **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.

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.)

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+ **Psalm 78:1-39** CEV

¹ My friends, I beg you
to listen as I teach.

² I will give instruction
and explain the mystery
of what happened long ago.

³ These are things we learned
from our ancestors,

⁴ and we will tell them
to the next generation.

We won't keep secret
the glorious deeds
and the mighty miracles
of the LORD.

⁵ God gave his Law
to Jacob's descendants,
the people of Israel.

And he told our ancestors
to teach their children,

⁶ so that each new generation
would know his Law
and tell it to the next.

⁷ Then they would trust God
and obey his teachings,

without forgetting anything
God had done.

⁸ They would be different
from their ancestors,
who were stubborn, rebellious,
and unfaithful to God.

⁹ The warriors from Ephraim
were armed with arrows,
but they ran away
when the battle began.

¹⁰ They broke their agreement
with God,
and they turned their backs
on his teaching.

¹¹ They forgot all he had done,
even the mighty miracles

¹² he did for their ancestors
near Zoan in Egypt.

¹³ God made a path in the sea
and piled up the water
as he led them across.

¹⁴ He guided them during the day
with a cloud,
and each night he led them

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with a flaming fire.

¹⁵ God made water flow

from rocks

he split open

in the desert,

and his people drank freely,

as though from a lake.

¹⁶ He made streams gush out

like rivers from rocks.

¹⁷ But in the desert,

the people of God Most High

kept sinning and rebelling.

¹⁸ They stubbornly tested God

and demanded from him

what they wanted to eat.

¹⁹ They challenged God by saying,

“Can God provide food

out here in the desert?

²⁰ It’s true God struck the rock

and water gushed out

like a river,

but can he give his people

bread and meat?”

²¹ When the LORD heard this,

he was angry and furious

with Jacob’s descendants,

the people of Israel.

²² They had refused to trust him,

and they had doubted

his saving power.

²³ But God gave a command

to the clouds,

and he opened the doors

in the skies.

²⁴ From heaven he sent grain

that they called manna.

²⁵ He gave them more than enough,

and each one of them ate

this special food.

²⁶ God’s mighty power

brought a strong wind

from the southeast,

²⁷ and it brought birds

that covered the ground,

like sand on the beach.

²⁸ Then God made the birds fall

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in the camp of his people
near their tents.

²⁹ God gave his people
all they wanted,
and each of them ate
until they were full.

³⁰ But before they had swallowed
the last bite,

³¹ God became angry and killed
the strongest
and best
from the families of Israel.

³² But the rest kept on sinning
and would not trust
God's miracles.

³³ So he cut their lives short
and made them terrified.

³⁴ After he killed some of them,
the others turned to him
with all their hearts.

³⁵ They remembered God Most High,
the mighty rock
that kept them safe.

³⁶ But they tried to flatter God,

and they told him lies;

³⁷ they were unfaithful
and broke their promises.

³⁸ Yet God was kind.

He kept forgiving their sins
and didn't destroy them.

He often became angry,
but never lost his temper.

³⁹ God remembered that they
were made of flesh
and were like a wind
that blows once
and then dies down.

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

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** **Jeremiah 7:21-34** CEV

²¹ The LORD told me to say to the people of Judah:

I am the LORD All-Powerful, the God of Israel, but
I won't accept sacrifices from you. So don't even

bother bringing them to me. You might as well just cook the meat for yourselves.

²² At the time I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, I didn't command them to offer sacrifices to me. ²³ Instead, I told them, "If you listen to me and do what I tell you, I will be your God, you will be my people, and all will go well for you." ²⁴ But your ancestors refused to listen. They were stubborn, and whenever I wanted them to go one way, they always went the other. ²⁵ Ever since your ancestors left Egypt, I have been sending my servants the prophets to speak for me. ²⁶ But you have ignored me and become even more stubborn and sinful than your ancestors ever were!

The LORD said:

²⁷ Jeremiah, no matter what you do, the people won't listen. ²⁸ So you must say to them:

People of Judah, I am the LORD your God, but you have refused to obey me, and you didn't change when I punished you. And now, you no longer even pretend to be faithful to me.

²⁹ Shave your head bald and throw away the hair.

Sing a funeral song on top of a barren hill.

You people have made me angry, and I have abandoned you.

³⁰ You have disobeyed me by putting your disgusting idols in my temple, and now the temple itself is disgusting to me. ³¹ At Topheth in Hinnom Valley you have built altars where you kill your children and burn them as sacrifices to other gods. I would never think of telling you to do this. ³² So watch out! Someday that place will no longer be called Topheth or Hinnom Valley. It will be called Slaughter Valley, because you will bury your dead there until you run out of room, ³³ and then bodies will lie scattered on the ground. Birds and wild animals will come and eat, and no one will be around to scare them off. ³⁴ When I am finished with your land, there will be deathly silence in the empty ruins of Jerusalem and the towns of Judah—no happy voices, no sounds of parties or wedding celebrations.

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: GREGORY OF NYSSA

When he used his influence to have his younger brother Gregory named bishop of the small, provincial town of Nyssa, Basil of Caesarea said that he would rather have his brother bring distinction to the place, rather than the other way around. By the end of Gregory's career, Basil had gotten his wish.

Gregory's most signal contribution lies in his powerful and insightful vision of the ascent of the soul to God. Standing firmly within the Eastern Christian tradition, the language Gregory employed to describe the mystery of salvation was in many ways dissimilar to that which most North American Christians are accustomed to hearing. While we more often use the language of guilt, atonement, and new birth, Gregory was more prone to

speaking of the loss and restoration of the divine image in us, and of participation in the divine perfection. He took seriously the gospel injunction, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5: 48).

For Gregory the perfection, the completeness which makes us most like God is that growth in grace for which we neither expect, nor look for, an end; the striving to love as God loves is end enough of itself.

* For All the Saints

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ COLLECT: GREGORY OF NYSSA

Gracious God, our Shepherd, we thank you for raising up Gregory of Nyssa as bishop in your church. Remembering his faithfulness and care, fill all shepherds of your church with truth in doctrine, fidelity in Word and Sacrament, and boldness and vision in leading the people, 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

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+ **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 JOY IN GOD'S CREATION

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly pray to you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ COLLECT: Tuesday In The Third Week Of Lent

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, to whom you have given a fervent desire to pray, may, by your mighty aid, be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; 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 know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ 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**

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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