

Wednesday, March 3, 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** - *The Second Song of Isaiah*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord,
and he will have compassion,
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,

Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating,

So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:6-11

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

Oh God, The Holy Spirit,
come to us, and among us;
come as the wind, and cleanse us;
come as the fire, and burn;
come as the dew, and refresh;
convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives to
our great good and to your greater glory;
and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

[UM Book of Worship.]

+ **Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45** NRSV

***Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered.***

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, call on his *name*,
make known his deeds a-mong the *peoples*.
² Sing to him, sing praises to *him*;
tell of all his wonder-ful *works*.
³ Glory in his ho-ly *name*;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD re-*joice*.
⁴ Seek the LORD and his *strength*;
seek his presence con-*tinually*.
⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has *done*,
his miracles, and the judgments he has *uttered*,

⁶ O offspring of his ser-vant *Abraham*,
children of Jacob, his cho-sen *ones*.
⁷ He is the LORD our *God*;
his judgments are in all the *earth*.
⁸ He is mindful of his covenant for-*ever*,
of the word that he commanded,
for a thousand gen-er-ations,
⁹ the covenant that he made with *Abraham*,
his sworn promise to *Isaac*,
¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a *statute*,
to Israel as an ever-last-ing *covenant*,
¹¹ saying, "To you I will give the land of *Canaan*
as your portion for an in-*heritance*."
³⁷ Then he brought Israel out with silver and *gold*,
and there was no one among their tribes who *stumbled*.
³⁸ Egypt was glad when they de-*parted*,
for dread of them had fallen upon *it*.
³⁹ He spread a cloud for a *covering*,
and fire to give light by *night*.
⁴⁰ They asked, and he brought *quails*,
and gave them food from heaven in *abundance*.
⁴¹ He opened the rock, and water gushed *out*;
it flowed through the desert like a *river*.

⁴² For he remembered his ho-ly *promise*,
and Abra-ham, his *servant*.
⁴³ So he brought his people out with *joy*,
his chosen ones with *singing*.
⁴⁴ He gave them the lands of the *nations*,
and they took possession of the wealth of the *peoples*,
⁴⁵ that they might keep his statutes
and ob-serve his *laws*.

Praise the *LORD*!

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

***Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered.***

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD:** John 12:36-43 CEV

³⁶ Have faith in the light while it is with you, and you will be children of the light.”
After Jesus had said these things, he left and went into hiding. ³⁷ He had worked a lot of miracles among the

people, but they were still not willing to have faith in him.
³⁸ This happened so that what the prophet Isaiah had said would come true,
“Lord, who has believed
our message?
And who has seen
your mighty strength?”
³⁹ The people could not have faith in Jesus, because Isaiah had also said,
⁴⁰ “The Lord has blinded
the eyes of the people,
and he has made
the people stubborn.
He did this so that they
could not see
or understand,
and so that they
would not turn to the Lord
and be healed.”
⁴¹ Isaiah said this, because he saw the glory of Jesus and spoke about him. ⁴² Even then, many of the leaders put their faith in Jesus, but they did not tell anyone about it. The Pharisees had already given orders for the people not to have anything to do with anyone who had faith in

Jesus. ⁴³ And besides, the leaders liked praise from others more than they liked praise from God.

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: KATHARINE MARY DREXEL**

Mother Katharine Mary Drexel spent millions of dollars of her family wealth to improve conditions for Native and African Americans. She established an order originally named "Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Coloreds" to organize and develop schools and missions.

She was born in Philadelphia, the daughter of Hannah and Francis Anthony Drexel, a wealthy railroad entrepreneur and banker. Hannah died when Katharine was five weeks old. After a time her father married a

remarkably devout Catholic, Emma Bouvier, who taught her family the importance of sharing their wealth. Each week they opened their home to the poor, filling orders for shoes, clothing, coal, rent, etc. Emma Bouvier instructed the children in philosophy, literature and the lives of the saints. It was during their wide travels that Katharine became aware of the plight of many Native and African Americans. When her parents died and she inherited her portion of about fourteen million dollars, she was determined to spend her life and her fortune to improve their lives.

Katharine asked Pope Leo XIII to provide staff for the schools she was funding. He surprised her by suggesting she become a missionary. She started religious training with the Sisters of Mercy at Pittsburgh. Two years later, in 1891, she and a few companions founded the 'Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament'. By 1942 Katharine and her order had established forty mission centers and twenty-three rural Catholic schools for African Americans and fifty missions for Native Americans. In 1914 they founded Xavier University in New Orleans, the first university for African Americans.

Katharine suffered a heart attack in 1935 and was forced into a more contemplative life of prayer and meditation. She lived to the age of 96. She spent her vast fortune and her long life fulfilling the dreams of her youth. Her leadership and devotion improved the plight of many Native and African American lives.

* For All the Saints

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT:** **KATHARINE MARY DREXEL**

Strong Word of God, by whom the world was created, in whom the world is redeemed, always send forth heralds like Katharine Mary Drexel, to bear the good news, that your saving way may be made known in every place and time, in every land and to every people, for your sake and for the sake of the world. **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 THOSE WE LOVE

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER For The Choice Of Fit Persons For The Ministry

O God, who lead your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER: Wednesday The Second Week Of Lent

O God, you so loved the world that you gave your only-begotten Son to reconcile earth with heaven:

Grant that we, loving you above all things, may love our friends in you, and our enemies for your sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, 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**

I pray that God, the source of all hope, will infuse our lives
with an abundance of joy and peace in the midst of our
faith, so that our hope will overflow through the power of
the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Romans 15:13 *THE VOICE*

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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