

Wednesday, March 31, 2021:

*I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,
"Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you; I
am no longer worthy to be called your son." Luke 15:18, 19*

+ **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.***

+ **CANTICLE OF REDEMPTION**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

***If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.***

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

***O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.***

+ **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.]

+ **WORD: Jeremiah 17:5-10** CEV

⁵ I, the LORD, have put a curse
on those who turn from me
and trust in human strength.

⁶ They will dry up like a bush
in salty desert soil,
where nothing can grow.

⁷ But I will bless those
who trust me.

⁸ They will be like trees
growing beside a stream—
trees with roots that reach
down to the water,
and with leaves
that are always green.
They bear fruit every year
and are never worried
by a lack of rain.

⁹ You people of Judah
are so deceitful
that you even fool yourselves,
and you can't change.

¹⁰ But I know your deeds
and your thoughts,
and I will make sure
you get what you deserve.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God!

+ **Psalm 55** NRSV

But I call upon God, and the LORD will save me.

***Evening and morning and at noon I utter my
complaint and moan, and he will hear my voice.***

¹ Give ear to my prayer, O God;
do not hide yourself from my supplication.

² Attend to me, and answer me;
I am troubled in my complaint.

I am distraught ³by the noise of the enemy,
because of the clamor of the wicked.

For they bring trouble upon me,
and in anger they cherish enmity against me.

⁴ My heart is in anguish within me,
the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

⁵ Fear and trembling come upon me,
and horror overwhelms me.

⁶ And I say, "O that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest;

⁷ truly, I would flee far away;
I would lodge in the wilderness; *Selah*

⁸ I would hurry to find a shelter for myself
from the raging wind and tempest."

⁹ Confuse, O Lord, confound their speech;
for I see violence and strife in the city.

¹⁰ Day and night they go around it
on its walls,

and iniquity and trouble are within it;

¹¹ ruin is in its midst;
oppression and fraud
do not depart from its marketplace.

¹² It is not enemies who taunt me—
I could bear that;

it is not adversaries who deal insolently with me—
I could hide from them.

¹³ But it is you, my equal,
my companion, my familiar friend,

¹⁴ with whom I kept pleasant company;
we walked in the house of God with the throng.

¹⁵ Let death come upon them;
let them go down alive to Sheol;
for evil is in their homes and in their hearts.

¹⁶ But I call upon God,
and the LORD will save me.

¹⁷ Evening and morning and at noon
I utter my complaint and moan,

and he will hear my voice.

¹⁸ He will redeem me unharmed
from the battle that I wage,
for many are arrayed against me.

¹⁹ God, who is enthroned from of old, *Selah*
will hear, and will humble them—
because they do not change,
and do not fear God.

²⁰ My companion laid hands on a friend
and violated a covenant with me

²¹ with speech smoother than butter,
but with a heart set on war;
with words that were softer than oil,
but in fact were drawn swords.

²² Cast your burden on the LORD,
and he will sustain you;
he will never permit
the righteous to be moved.

²³ But you, O God, will cast them down
into the lowest pit;
the bloodthirsty and treacherous
shall not live out half their days.

But I will trust in you.

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

But I call upon God, and the LORD will save me.

***Evening and morning and at noon I utter my
complaint and moan, and he will hear my voice.***

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **WORD: John 12:27-36** CEV

²⁷ Now I am deeply troubled, and I don't know what to say. But I must not ask my Father to keep me from this time of suffering. In fact, I came into the world to suffer. ²⁸ So Father, bring glory to yourself.

A voice from heaven then said, "I have already brought glory to myself, and I will do it again!" ²⁹ When the crowd heard the voice, some of them thought it was thunder. Others thought an angel had spoken to Jesus.

³⁰ Then Jesus told the crowd, "That voice spoke to help you, not me. ³¹ This world's people are now being judged,

and the ruler of this world is already being thrown out! ³² If I am lifted up above the earth, I will make everyone want to come to me.” ³³ Jesus was talking about the way he would be put to death.

³⁴ The crowd said to Jesus, “The Scriptures teach that the Messiah will live forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?”

³⁵ Jesus answered, “The light will be with you for only a little longer. Walk in the light while you can. Then you won’t be caught walking blindly in the dark. 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.

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: Francis Asbury**

The founding Bishop of the Methodist Church in America was born in England. Sent by John Wesley as a missionary to America in 1771, he promoted the circuit rider system which proved so eminently suited to frontier conditions. His powerful preaching, his skill in winning converts, and his mastery of organization had, by the end of the Revolution, established him as the undisputed leader of American Methodism.

<http://gcah.org/history/francis-asbury>

+SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **COLLECT: Francis Asbury**

Gracious God, our Shepherd, we thank you for raising up Francis Asbury as bishop and pastor 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

+ **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,
and also with you.

Let us pray: *(stop and pray for those on your heart today)*

+ IN THE MORNING

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

+ PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sets the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them, we ask you, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who have become family. Turn the hearts

of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kind hearted one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

+ FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ PRAYER: Wednesday in Holy Week

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; 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**

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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