

Monday, April 26, 2021

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

* **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.

***Satisfy us in the morning
with your steadfast love, O God,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.***

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* **CANTICLE OF ACCLAMATION**

You, Christ, reign in glory,
the eternal Chosen One of God.
When you came in the flesh to set us free,
you took our nature on you,
human child of human mother.

***To give us life, you died and broke death's power
making us worthy by your boundless goodness.
You broke the chains that held us captive
and opened wide the gates of eternal life with you.***

O creator God, of majesty unbounded,
your Chosen One, worthy of all worship:
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide,
save your people, bless your inheritance.

***Complete the work of our salvation;
with grace and judgment,
come and save your people.***

***And bring us with your Saints
to live with you in God's eternal presence.***

* **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.)

* **WORD:** Wisdom 1:16-2:11, 21-24 CEB

¹⁶ In spite of this, the ungodly called out to death by what they did and said. Thinking that death was their friend, they lost their resolve and made a treaty with death. Let them have each other: death and the ungodly belong together!

² By reasoning in their twisted way, the ungodly said: Our lives are short and painful. There is no antidote for death; no one has come back from the grave. ² All of us came into being by chance. When our lives are over, it will be just as if we had never been. The breath in our nostrils is mere smoke. Reason is just a spark in the beating of our hearts. ³ When that spark is extinguished, the body will be turned into ashes. The spirit will evaporate into thin air. ⁴ Over time, our names will be forgotten. No one will remember our deeds. Our lives will pass away like the last wisps of a cloud. Our lives will be dispersed like a morning mist chased away by the sun and weighed down by the day's heat. ⁵ Our time here is like a shadow passing by. There's no turning back from death. It has been sealed, and no one will alter it.

⁶ Come then! Let's enjoy all the good things of life now. Let's enjoy creation to the fullest as we did in our youth. ⁷ Let's drink our fill of expensive wines and enjoy fine perfumes. Let's pluck every fresh blossom of spring as we pass by.

⁸ Let's crown ourselves with rosebuds before they wither.

⁹ Let's make sure that no meadow is left untouched by our high-spirited fun. Let's leave evidence everywhere that we made the most of this life, because this life is all we have.

¹⁰ Let's take advantage of the day laborer who does what's right. Let's not be afraid to abuse the widow. Let's show that we couldn't care less for the gray hair of our elders. ¹¹ May strength be our only law and determine what's right, for it's clear to us that what is weak is worthless.

²¹ This was how the ungodly reasoned, but they were mistaken. Their malice completely blinded them. ²² They didn't know of God's secret plan. They didn't hope for the reward that holiness brings. They didn't consider the prize they would win if they kept their whole beings free from stain.

²³ God created humans to live forever. He made them as a perfect representation of his own unique identity. ²⁴ Death entered the universe only through the devil's envy. Those who belong to the devil's party experience death.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

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* **Psalm 41** NRSV

- ¹ Happy are those who consider the poor;
the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble.
- ² The LORD protects them and keeps them alive;
they are called happy in the land.
You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.
- ³ The LORD sustains them on their sickbed;
in their illness you heal all their infirmities.
- ⁴ As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against you."
- ⁵ My enemies wonder in malice
when I will die, and my name perish.
- ⁶ And when they come to see me, they utter empty words,
while their hearts gather mischief;
when they go out, they tell it abroad.
- ⁷ All who hate me whisper together about me;
they imagine the worst for me.
- ⁸ They think that a deadly thing has fastened on me,
that I will not rise again from where I lie.
- ⁹ Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted,
who ate of my bread, has lifted the heel against me.
- ¹⁰ But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,
and raise me up, that I may repay them.

- ¹¹ By this I know that you are pleased with me;
because my enemy has not triumphed over me.
- ¹² But you have upheld me because of my integrity,
and set me in your presence forever.
- ¹³ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Amen and Amen.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** Luke 6:1-11 CEB

- One Sabbath, as Jesus was going through the wheat fields, his disciples were picking the heads of wheat, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them. ² Some Pharisees said, "Why are you breaking the Sabbath law?"
- ³ Jesus replied, "Haven't you read what David and his companions did when they were hungry? ⁴ He broke the Law by going into God's house and eating the bread of the presence, which only the priests can eat. He also gave some of the bread to his companions." ⁵ Then he said to them, "The Human One is Lord of the Sabbath."

⁶ On another Sabbath, Jesus entered a synagogue to teach. A man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷ The legal experts and the Pharisees were watching him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. They were looking for a reason to bring charges against him. ⁸ Jesus knew their thoughts, so he said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and stand in front of everyone." He got up and stood there. ⁹ Jesus said to the legal experts and Pharisees, "Here's a question for you: Is it legal on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?" ¹⁰ Looking around at them all, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he did and his hand was made healthy. ¹¹ They were furious and began talking with each other about what to do to Jesus.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to 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,**

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**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.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **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.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **COMMEMORATION: MARK**

The unnamed writer of the second gospel is traditionally associated with the John Mark mentioned in Acts as a missionary companion of Paul and Barnabas (Mark's cousin) and with the Mark that appears in 1 Peter 5: 13. Papias, a second century bishop, says that Mark was the "interpreter" of Peter's teaching of Jesus. This tradition, along with Mark's dependence on Peter, has been both defended and denied, depending on critical evaluation of the Papias tradition and on evidence internal to the gospel itself. Mark is the earliest of the four gospels and thus our Evangelist was the first to fashion the gospel genre as we know it. Although Eusebius says he went to Alexandria, we do not have reliable

information about where or when he died. His supposed remains were translated to Venice in the ninth century of which city he became the patron saint. The Evangelist is usually pictured as the winged lion of Ezekiel, recalling the majesty of Jesus, the Lion of Judah.

* For All the Saints

* **COLLECT: MARK**

Son of God, Lord Jesus Christ, once for all crucified: We thank you for Mark and his gospel to believers under pressure and persecution. Walk with us on the road to the cross, employ us in your ministry of healing and announcing God's reign, and keep us faithful under fire. 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.

* EASTER SEASON INTERCESSION

O God, our Shepherd, our gate, our lamb: in the resurrection of your Son you have brought us into your pasture. Guide us to your clear streams and tame the wolf at our gate; through Christ our Lord. **Amen. Alleluia.**

* PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION (PARISH)

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.*

* COLLECT OF THE WEEK

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; 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.

* **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.**

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* **BLESSING**

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,
who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and
good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in
every good work and word.. 2 Th. 2:16-17 NRSV

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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