

Saturday, April 24, 2021

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

* **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.

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**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 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:

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT.)

* **WORD:** Daniel 6:16-28 CEV

¹⁶ So Darius ordered Daniel to be brought out and thrown into a pit of lions. But he said to Daniel, “You have been faithful to your God, and I pray that he will rescue you.”

¹⁷ A stone was rolled over the pit, and it was sealed. Then Darius and his officials stamped the seal to show that no one should let Daniel out. ¹⁸ All night long the king could not sleep. He did not eat anything, and he would not let anyone come in to entertain him.

¹⁹ At daybreak the king got up and ran to the pit. ²⁰ He was anxious and shouted, “Daniel, you were faithful and

served your God. Was he able to save you from the lions?”

²¹ Daniel answered, “Your Majesty, I hope you live forever!

²² My God knew that I was innocent, and he sent an angel to keep the lions from eating me. Your Majesty, I have never done anything to hurt you.”

²³ The king was relieved to hear Daniel’s voice, and he gave orders for him to be taken out of the pit. Daniel’s faith in his God had kept him from being harmed. ²⁴ And the king ordered the men who had brought charges against Daniel to be thrown into the pit, together with their wives and children. But before they even reached the bottom, the lions ripped them to pieces.

²⁵ King Darius then sent this message to all people of every nation and race in the world:

“Greetings to all of you!

²⁶ I command everyone
in my kingdom
to worship and honor
the God of Daniel.
He is the living God,
the one who lives forever.
His power and his kingdom

will never end.

²⁷ He rescues people

and sets them free

by working great miracles.

Daniel's God has rescued him

from the power of the lions."

²⁸ All went well for Daniel while Darius was king, and even when Cyrus the Persian ruled.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 32](#) NRSV

***Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.***

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Selah

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Selah

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the

LORD.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

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

***Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** Luke 5:27-39 CEV

²⁷ Later, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the place for paying taxes. Jesus said to him, "Come with me." ²⁸ Levi left everything and went with Jesus.

²⁹ In his home Levi gave a big dinner for Jesus. Many tax collectors and other guests were also there.

³⁰ The Pharisees and some of their teachers of the Law of Moses grumbled to Jesus' disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with those tax collectors and other sinners?"

³¹ Jesus answered, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. ³² I didn't come to invite good people to turn to God. I came to invite sinners."

³³ Some people said to Jesus, "John's followers often pray and go without eating, and so do the followers of the Pharisees. But your disciples never go without eating or drinking."

³⁴ Jesus told them, "The friends of a bridegroom don't go without eating while he is still with them. ³⁵ But the time will come when he will be taken from them. Then they will go without eating."

³⁶ Jesus then told them these sayings:

No one uses a new piece of cloth to patch old clothes. The patch would shrink and make the hole even bigger.

³⁷ No one pours new wine into old wineskins. The new wine would swell and burst the old skins. Then the wine would be lost, and the skins would be ruined. ³⁸ New wine must be put only into new wineskins.

³⁹ No one wants new wine after drinking old wine. They say, "The old wine is better."

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.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **COMMEMORATION: SAMUEL WESLEY**

Samuel Wesley, the father of John and Charles Wesley, was rector of the parish of Epworth. Although his father was a nonconformist minister, Samuel returned to the Church of England and, after graduating from Exeter College, Oxford, was ordained a priest in 1689. He married Susanna Annesley while a curate in a London parish. With high church leanings, Samuel celebrated a monthly rather than quarterly Eucharist, urged the public rather than the private baptism of children, and encouraged the use of contemporary hymns rather than the "Old Version" Psalter. He achieved some fame for his prose and poetic writings, including a major work on the book of Job. He died on April 25, 1732.

* For All the Saints

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **COLLECT: SAMUEL WESLEY**

Witnesses in faith, in prayer, and in deed, holy in life, perfected in love, with us on earth, around us in heaven, your faithful witness Samuel Wesley points to the Way: Praise be to God, in living and dying, for saints who are with us, even today. ***Amen.***

* **PRAYERS**

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

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

* **FOR A SICK PERSON**

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly ask you to recognize, visit, and relieve your sick servants for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; preserve them from the temptations of the enemy; and give them

patience under their affliction. In your good time, restore them to health, and enable them to live the remainder of their lives in your awe, and to your glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* EASTER SEASON INTERCESSION

O God, our rainbow, our dove, our promised land: In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us into your ark. Protect us from storms, and ferry us to your welcoming shore; through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.

* PRAYERS FOR THE OPPRESSED

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; 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 blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.**

* **BLESSING**

Brothers and sisters, let me leave you with a blessing:
May peace and love with faith be yours from God the Father and the Lord Jesus the Anointed. May His grace surround all who love our Lord Jesus the Anointed with a never-ending love. **Amen!**

Ephesians 6:23-24 The VOICE

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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