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Thursday, April 15, 2021

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1

* **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.**

PSALM 90:14

* **CANTICLE OF THE RESURRECTION**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*therefore let us keep the feast,
not with the old leaven of malice and evil,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

Christ being raised from the dead

will never die again;

death no longer has dominion over him.

**The death he died, he died to sin, once for all,
but the life he lives, he lives to God.**

*So consider yourselves dead to sin
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

For as in Adam all die,

so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Alleluia!

* OSL

* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;

And also with you.

Let us pray:

**We give you hearty thanks for the rest of the past
night and for the gift of a new day, with its
opportunities of pleasing you. Grant that we may so**

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***pass its hours in the perfect freedom of your service,
that at eventide we may again give thanks unto you.
Amen.***

[UM Book of Worship]

* **WORD:** Daniel 2:31-49 CEV

³¹ Your Majesty, what you saw standing in front of you was a huge and terrifying statue, shining brightly. ³² Its head was made of gold, its chest and arms were silver, and from its waist down to its knees, it was bronze.

³³ From there to its ankles it was iron, and its feet were a mixture of iron and clay.

³⁴ As you watched, a stone was cut from a mountain—but not by human hands. The stone struck the feet, completely shattering the iron and clay. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed and blown away without a trace, like husks of wheat at threshing time. But the stone became a tremendous mountain that covered the entire earth.

³⁶ That was the dream, and now I'll tell you what it means.

³⁷ Your Majesty, you are the greatest of kings, and God has highly honored you with power ³⁸ over all humans,

animals, and birds. You are the head of gold. ³⁹ After you are gone, another kingdom will rule, but it won't be as strong. Then it will be followed by a kingdom of bronze that will rule the whole world. ⁴⁰ Next, a kingdom of iron will come to power, crushing and shattering everything.

⁴¹⁻⁴² This fourth kingdom will be divided—it will be both strong and brittle, just as you saw that the feet and toes were a mixture of iron and clay. ⁴³ This kingdom will be the result of a marriage between kingdoms, but it will crumble, just as iron and clay don't stick together.

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵ During the time of those kings, the God who rules from heaven will set up an eternal kingdom that will never fall. It will be like the stone that was cut from the mountain, but not by human hands—the stone that crushed the iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. Your Majesty, in your dream the great God has told you what is going to happen, and you can trust this interpretation.

⁴⁶ King Nebuchadnezzar bowed low to the ground and worshiped Daniel. Then he gave orders for incense to be burned and a sacrifice of grain to be offered in honor of Daniel. ⁴⁷ The king said, "Now I know that your God is above all other gods and kings, because he gave you the power to explain this mystery." ⁴⁸ The king then presented

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Daniel with a lot of gifts; he promoted him to governor of Babylon Province and put him in charge of the other wise men. ⁴⁹ At Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to high positions in Babylon Province, and he let Daniel stay on as a palace official.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 18:1-20](#) NRSV

***In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.***

¹ I love you, O LORD, my strength.

² The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
so I shall be saved from my enemies.

⁴ The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of perdition assailed me;

⁵ the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

⁶ In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

⁷ Then the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and quaked, because he was angry.

⁸ Smoke went up from his nostrils,
and devouring fire from his mouth;
glowing coals flamed forth from him.

⁹ He bowed the heavens, and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.

¹⁰ He rode on a cherub, and flew;
he came swiftly upon the wings of the wind.

¹¹ He made darkness his covering around him,
his canopy thick clouds dark with water.

¹² Out of the brightness before him
there broke through his clouds
hailstones and coals of fire.

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¹³ The LORD also thundered in the heavens,
and the Most High uttered his voice.
¹⁴ And he sent out his arrows, and scattered them;
he flashed forth lightnings, and routed them.
¹⁵ Then the channels of the sea were seen,
and the foundations of the world were laid bare
at your rebuke, O LORD,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.
¹⁶ He reached down from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of mighty waters.
¹⁷ He delivered me from my strong enemy,
and from those who hated me;
for they were too mighty for me.
¹⁸ They confronted me in the day of my calamity;
but the LORD was my support.
¹⁹ He brought me out into a broad place;
he delivered me, because he delighted in me.
²⁰ The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness;
according to the cleanness of my hands he
recompensed me.

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

***In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** Luke 3:1-14 CEV

For fifteen years Emperor Tiberius had ruled that part of the world. Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was the ruler of Galilee. Herod's brother, Philip, was the ruler in the countries of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was the ruler of Abilene. ² Annas and Caiaphas were the Jewish high priests.

At that time God spoke to Zechariah's son John, who was living in the desert. ³ So John went along the Jordan Valley, telling the people, "Turn back to God and be baptized! Then your sins will be forgiven." ⁴ Isaiah the prophet wrote about John when he said,

"In the desert
someone is shouting,

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'Get the road ready
for the Lord!

Make a straight path
for him.

⁵ Fill up every valley
and level every mountain
and hill.

Straighten the crooked paths
and smooth out
the rough roads.

⁶ Then everyone will see
the saving power of God.”

⁷ Crowds of people came out to be baptized, but John said to them, “You bunch of snakes! Who warned you to run from the coming judgment? ⁸ Do something to show that you really have given up your sins. Don't start saying that you belong to Abraham's family. God can turn these stones into children for Abraham. ⁹ An ax is ready to cut the trees down at their roots. Any tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into a fire.”

¹⁰ The crowds asked John, “What should we do?”

¹¹ John told them, “If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else.”

¹² When tax collectors came to be baptized, they asked John, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³ John told them, “Don't make people pay more than they owe.”

¹⁴ Some soldiers asked him, “And what about us? What do we have to do?”

John told them, “Don't force people to pay money to make you leave them alone. Be satisfied with your pay.”

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*.

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**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.***

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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)*

* FOR HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL

For those we have lifted up today, may God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

* EASTER SEASON INTERCESSION

O God, our bread, our milk, and our honey: In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us to your table. Feed us with your plenty, and enlarge our table for all the hungry; through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.

* PRAYER FOR the President of the United States
and all in Civil Authority

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being

guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in your fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. ***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.***

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* COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; 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.

* **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**

May grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Jesus the Anointed, the Father's own Son, surround you and be with you always in truth and love. **Amen.**

2 JOHN 3 VOICE

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Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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