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Thursday, April 29, 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.

* OS�

**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!

* OS�

* **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

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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 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]

* **1st READING:** **Wisdom 5:9-23** CEV

⁹ These things have all passed away like a shadow. They're gone like old news. ¹⁰ They're gone like a ship passing through a storm-tossed sea: once it has passed, it leaves no trace of its passing; its keel leaves no lasting mark on the waves. ¹¹ That's all disappeared in the way a bird flies through the air and leaves no hint of its path: it beats its wings against the thin air, dives with a rush, uses its wings to circle round—yet afterward there's no sign in the air that the bird was ever there. ¹² It's all vanished like an arrow that's shot at its target: the air opens up as the arrow flies through it but immediately closes up behind the arrow, and no one can detect any trace of the arrow's path.

¹³ That's us! We came into being, and almost immediately afterward, we died. We leave behind no evidence of virtue. We squandered what we had in bad living.

¹⁴ The ungodly person's hope disappears like dust in the wind, like frost that is stripped away and scattered by a mighty wind, like smoke that rises and is immediately dispersed by the wind, like the memory of a stranger who spends the day and then is gone.

¹⁵ In contrast, those who do the right thing live forever. Their reward comes from the Lord. The Most High takes care of them. ¹⁶ For this reason, they will receive a lovely palace and a beautiful royal crown from the Lord himself. With his right hand he shelters them and with his right arm he protects them. ¹⁷ For his weapon, the Lord will take his zeal. He will arm creation itself for the fight against his foes. ¹⁸ He will put on justice as his body armor. He will strap on honest judgment as his helmet. ¹⁹ He will take up holiness as a shield that can never be beaten down. ²⁰ He will sharpen his fierce anger into a sword.

The cosmos itself will join with him to defeat those who have wandered from reason. ²¹ Shafts of lightning will strike with precision. They will leap from the clouds as if shot from a well-bent bow, and they will hit their target

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every time. ²² Showers of hail will rain down upon them as if shot from a catapult that never stops firing. The sea's waters will rage against them, and rivers will rise up and wash over them in a fury. ²³ A powerful wind will blow against them and like a whirlwind, it will scatter them. Lawlessness will turn the whole earth into a desert. Evildoing will pull down the thrones of the powerful.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 50](#) NRSV

Call on me in the day of trouble;

I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.

¹ The mighty one, God the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth.

³ Our God comes and does not keep silence,
before him is a devouring fire,
and a mighty tempest all around him.

⁴ He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

⁵ "Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness,
for God himself is judge. *Selah*

⁷ "Hear, O my people, and I will speak,
O Israel, I will testify against you.
I am God, your God.

⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are continually before me.

⁹ I will not accept a bull from your house,
or goats from your folds.

¹⁰ For every wild animal of the forest is mine,
the cattle on a thousand hills.

¹¹ I know all the birds of the air,
and all that moves in the field is mine.

¹² "If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the world and all that is in it is mine.

¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls,

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or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and pay your vows to the Most High.

¹⁵ Call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

¹⁶ But to the wicked God says:
“What right have you to recite my statutes,
or take my covenant on your lips?

¹⁷ For you hate discipline,
and you cast my words behind you.

¹⁸ You make friends with a thief when you see one,
and you keep company with adulterers.

¹⁹ “You give your mouth free rein for evil,
and your tongue frames deceit.

²⁰ You sit and speak against your kin;
you slander your own mother’s child.

²¹ These things you have done and I have been silent;
you thought that I was one just like yourself.

But now I rebuke you, and lay the charge before you.

²² “Mark this, then, you who forget God,
or I will tear you apart, and there will be no one to
deliver.

²³ Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor

me;

to those who go the right way
I will show the salvation of God.”

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

***Call on me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** Luke 6:39-49 CEB

³⁹ Jesus also told them a riddle. “A blind person can’t lead another blind person, right? Won’t they both fall into a ditch? ⁴⁰ Disciples aren’t greater than their teacher, but whoever is fully prepared will be like their teacher. ⁴¹ Why do you see the splinter in your brother’s or sister’s eye but don’t notice the log in your own eye? ⁴² How can you say to your brother or sister, ‘Brother, Sister, let me take the splinter out of your eye,’ when you don’t see the log in your own eye? You deceive yourselves! First take the log

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out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to take the splinter out of your brother's or sister's eye.

⁴³ "A good tree doesn't produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. ⁴⁴ Each tree is known by its own fruit. People don't gather figs from thorny plants, nor do they pick grapes from prickly bushes. ⁴⁵ A good person produces good from the good treasury of the inner self, while an evil person produces evil from the evil treasury of the inner self. The inner self overflows with words that are spoken.

⁴⁶ "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and don't do what I say? ⁴⁷ I'll show what it's like when someone comes to me, hears my words, and puts them into practice. ⁴⁸ It's like a person building a house by digging deep and laying the foundation on bedrock. When the flood came, the rising water smashed against that house, but the water couldn't shake the house because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But those who don't put into practice what they hear are like a person who built a house without a foundation. The floodwater smashed against it and it collapsed instantly. It was completely destroyed."

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*.**

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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: CATHERINE OF SIENA**

Catherine was an Italian mystic and teacher. The youngest of the twenty-five children of the Sienese Benincasa family, at six she dedicated her life to serve God through her chastity. Her parents tried to get her to marry, but showing her resolution to devote herself to a life of prayer and service she cut off her hair. She was eventually accepted into the Dominican Tertiaries although it was normally comprised of widows. After three years spent in prayer and asceticism she went out to serve the poor and sick in her own city and beyond.

In one of her many visions, Jesus told her, "... love of me and love of neighbor are one and the same thing:

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Since love of neighbor has its source in me, the more the soul loves me, the more she loves her neighbors." She reached out to prisoners and became skilled at mediating disputes and helping individuals reconcile differences. Her work of compassion was one piece of her connection with the spiritual and political life of her day. In her later years she became highly involved in ecclesiastical politics, trying to mediate the conflict between Florence and the Papal Government, and later, between Urban VI and the rival pope at Avignon.

* For All the Saints

* **COLLECT:** CATHERINE OF SIENA

Holy Sophia, you have befriended us with Catherine Of Siena who waiting patiently beside your doors grew rich in the knowledge of your ways and found in you an intimate friend. So teach all your children your way and your truth, that finding you we may find life. 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)*

* 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 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.

* FOR THOSE WHO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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* PRAYERS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State of New Jersey, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; 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.

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* **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**

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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