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Thursday, April 8, 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:

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Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see life clearly and, in your service, find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Augustine

* **WORD: Ezekiel 37:1-14** CEV

Some time later, I felt the LORD's power take control of me, and his Spirit carried me to a valley full of bones.

² The LORD showed me all around, and everywhere I looked I saw bones that were dried out. ³ He said, "Ezekiel, son of man, can these bones come back to life?"

I replied, "LORD God, only you can answer that."

⁴ He then told me to say:

Dry bones, listen to what the LORD is saying to you,

⁵ "I, the LORD God, will put breath in you, and once again you will live. ⁶ I will wrap you with muscles and

skin and breathe life into you. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

⁷ I did what the LORD said, but before I finished speaking, I heard a rattling noise. The bones were coming together!

⁸ I saw muscles and skin cover the bones, but they had no life in them.

⁹ The LORD said:

Ezekiel, now say to the wind, "The LORD God commands you to blow from every direction and to breathe life into these dead bodies, so they can live again."

¹⁰ As soon as I said this, the wind blew among the bodies, and they came back to life! They all stood up, and there were enough to make a large army.

¹¹ The LORD said:

Ezekiel, the people of Israel are like dead bones. They complain that they are dried up and that they have no hope for the future. ¹² So tell them, "I, the LORD God, promise to open your graves and set you free. I will bring you back to Israel, ¹³ and when that happens, you will realize that I am the LORD. ¹⁴ My Spirit will give you breath, and you will live again. I will

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bring you home, and you will know that I have kept
my promise. I, the LORD, have spoken.”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 146](#) NRSV

God always keeps his word.

He gives justice to the poor

Shout praises to the LORD!

With all that I am,

I will shout his praises.

² I will sing

and praise

the LORD God

for as long as I live.

³ You can't depend on anyone,

not even a great leader.

⁴ Once they die and are buried,

that will be the end

of all their plans.

⁵ The LORD God of Jacob blesses
everyone

who trusts him

and depends on him.

⁶ God made heaven and earth;

he created the sea

and everything else.

God always keeps his word.

⁷ He gives justice to the poor

and food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free

⁸ and heals blind eyes.

He gives a helping hand

to everyone who falls.

The LORD loves good people

⁹ and looks after strangers.

He defends the rights

of orphans and widows,

but destroys the wicked.

¹⁰ The LORD God of Zion

will rule forever!

Shout praises to the LORD!

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

God always keeps his word.

He gives justice to the poor

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD: John 15:12-27** CEV

¹² Now I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you.

¹³ The greatest way to show love for friends is to die for them. ¹⁴ And you are my friends, if you obey me.

¹⁵ Servants don't know what their master is doing, and so I don't speak to you as my servants. I speak to you as my friends, and I have told you everything that my Father has told me.

¹⁶ You did not choose me. I chose you and sent you out to produce fruit, the kind of fruit that will last. Then my Father will give you whatever you ask for in my name. ¹⁷ So I command you to love each other.

¹⁸ If the people of this world hate you, just remember that they hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, its

people would love you. But you don't belong to the world. I have chosen you to leave the world behind, and that is why its people hate you. ²⁰ Remember how I told you that servants are not greater than their master. So if people mistreat me, they will mistreat you. If they do what I say, they will do what you say.

²¹ People will do to you exactly what they did to me. They will do it because you belong to me, and they don't know the one who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have no excuse for their sin.

²³ Everyone who hates me also hates my Father. ²⁴ I have done things that no one else has ever done. If they had not seen me do these things, they would not be guilty. But they did see me do these things, and they still hate me and my Father too. ²⁵ That is why the Scriptures are true when they say, "People hated me for no reason."

²⁶ I will send you the Spirit who comes from the Father and shows what is true. The Spirit will help you and will tell you about me. ²⁷ Then you will also tell others about me, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

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* 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***

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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.***

*** PRAYERS**

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

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

*** PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS**

***O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your
command you drive away from our bodies all sick-
ness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness
with those we lift today, that their weaknesses may be
banished and their strength restored; and that with
health being renewed, all may bless your holy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

*** PRAYER FOR THOSE WE LOVE**

***Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to
your never-failing care and love, for this life and the
life to come, knowing that you are doing for them
better things than we can desire or pray for; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

*** PRAYER For The Choice Of Fit Persons For The Ministry**

O God, who lead your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place: Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, 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***

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***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.***

* COLLECT: Thursday in Easter 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.***

* BCP

* 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**

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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