

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

On this day the Lord has acted;

we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24

*** 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.

*** MORNING CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Come, let us sing to the Ho-ly One; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal-va-tion.

***Let us come before God's presence
with thanks-giving,****

and raise a loud shout with psalms.

For you, O God, are a great God,*

you are great a-bove all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth,*

and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it,*

and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,*

and kneel before God, our Maker.

For you are our God,

and we are the people of your pasture

and the sheep of your hand.*

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

PSALM 95:1-7

*** MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One be with you;

And also with you.

Let us pray:

***Oh God, The Holy Spirit,
come to us, and among us;
come as the wind, and cleanse us;
come as the fire, and burn;
come as the dew, and refresh;
convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and
lives to our great good and to your greater glory;
and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen***

[UM Book of Worship.]

* **WORD:** Daniel 4:28-37 CEV

²⁸⁻³⁰ About twelve months later, I was walking on the flat roof of my royal palace and admiring the beautiful city of Babylon, when these things started happening to me. I was saying to myself, “Just look at this wonderful capital city that I have built by my own power and for my own glory!”

³¹ But before I could finish speaking, a voice from heaven interrupted:

King Nebuchadnezzar, this kingdom is no longer yours.

³² You will be forced to live with the wild animals, away from people. For seven years you will eat grass, as though you were an ox, until you learn that God Most High

is in control of all earthly kingdoms and that he is the one who chooses their rulers.

³³ This was no sooner said than done - I was forced to live like a wild animal; I ate grass and was unprotected from the dew. As time went by, my hair grew longer than eagle feathers, and my fingernails looked like the claws of a bird.

³⁴ Finally, I prayed to God in heaven, and my mind was healed. Then I said:

“I praise and honor
God Most High.

He lives forever,
and his kingdom
will never end.

³⁵ To him the nations
are far less than nothing;
God controls the stars in the sky
and everyone on this earth.

When God does something,
we cannot change it
or even ask why.”

³⁶ At that time my mind was healed, and once again I became the ruler of my glorious kingdom. My advisors

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and officials returned to me, and I had greater power than ever before. ³⁷ That's why I say:

“Praise and honor the King
who rules from heaven!
Everything he does
is honest and fair,
and he can shatter the power
of those who are proud.”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 26](#) NRSV

***Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.***

Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.

² Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.

⁴ I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;

⁵ I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.

⁶ I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O LORD,

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.

⁸ O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.

⁹ Do not sweep me away with sinners,
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,

¹⁰ those in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.

¹¹ But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.

¹² My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.

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

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***Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.***

* [Psalm 28](#) NRSV

***The LORD is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts.***

¹ To you, O LORD, I call;
my rock, do not refuse to hear me,
for if you are silent to me,
I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

² Hear the voice of my supplication,
as I cry to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your most holy sanctuary.

³ Do not drag me away with the wicked,
with those who are workers of evil,
who speak peace with their neighbors,
while mischief is in their hearts.

⁴ Repay them according to their work,
and according to the evil of their deeds;
repay them according to the work of their hands;
render them their due reward.

⁵ Because they do not regard the works of the LORD,

or the work of his hands,
he will break them down and build them up no more.

⁶ Blessed be the LORD,
for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.

⁷ The LORD is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts;
so I am helped, and my heart exults,
and with my song I give thanks to him.

⁸ The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

⁹ O save your people, and bless your heritage;
be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

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

***The LORD is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** Luke 4:31-37 CEV

³¹ Jesus went to the town of Capernaum in Galilee and taught the people on the Sabbath. ³² His teaching amazed them because he spoke with power. ³³ There in the Jewish meeting place was a man with an evil spirit. He yelled out, ³⁴ “Hey, Jesus of Nazareth, what do you want with us? Are you here to get rid of us? I know who you are! You are God’s Holy One.”

³⁵ Jesus ordered the evil spirit to be quiet and come out. The demon threw the man to the ground in front of everyone and left without harming him.

³⁶ They all were amazed and kept saying to each other, “What kind of teaching is this? He has power to order evil spirits out of people!” ³⁷ News about Jesus spread all over that part of the country.

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.*

* **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 THOSE WHO MOURN

Gracious God, as your son wept with Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, look with compassion this day on those who grieve. Grant them the assurance of your presence now and faith in your eternal goodness, that in them may be fulfilled the promise that those who mourn shall be comforted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

United Methodist Hymnal - *adapted*

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* 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 OUR ENEMIES

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* PRAYERS FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, and especially administrators and teachers in this time of pandemic, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; 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.**

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* 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**

Now may the God who brought us peace by raising from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ so that he would be the Great Shepherd of his flock; and by the power of the blood of the eternal covenant may he work perfection into every part of you giving you all that you need to fulfill your destiny. **Amen.**

Hebrews 13:20-21a Passion Translation

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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