

Wednesday, April 14, 2021:

*Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57*

* **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.
***Satisfy us in the morning
with your steadfast love, O God,
that we may sing for joy
and be glad all our days.***

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* **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:

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:** Daniel 2:17-30 CEV

¹⁷ Daniel returned home and told his three friends. ¹⁸ Then he said, “Pray that the God who rules from heaven will be merciful and explain this mystery, so that we and the others won’t be put to death.” ¹⁹ In a vision one night, Daniel was shown the dream and its meaning. Then he praised the God who rules from heaven:

²⁰ “Our God, your name will be praised forever and forever.

You are all-powerful,

and you know everything.

²¹ You control human events— you give rulers their power and take it away, and you are the source of wisdom and knowledge.

²² “You explain deep mysteries, because even the dark is light to you.

²³ You are the God who was worshiped by my ancestors.

Now I thank you and praise you for making me wise and telling me the king’s dream, together with its meaning.”

²⁴ Daniel went back to Arioch, the official in charge of executing the wise men. Daniel said, “Don’t kill those men! Take me to the king, and I will explain the meaning of his dream.”

²⁵ Arioch rushed Daniel to the king and announced, “Your Majesty, I have found out that one of the men brought here from Judah can explain your dream.”

²⁶ The king asked Daniel, “Can you tell me my dream and what it means?”

²⁷ Daniel answered:

Your Majesty, not even the smartest person in all the world can do what you are demanding. ²⁸⁻²⁹ But the God who rules from heaven can explain mysteries. And while you were sleeping, he showed you what will happen in the future. ³⁰ However, you must realize that these mysteries weren’t explained to me because I am smarter than everyone else. Instead, it was done so that you would understand what you have seen.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God!

* **Psalm 119:1-24** NRSV

¹ Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD.

² Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,

³ who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways.

⁴ You have commanded your precepts

to be kept diligently.

⁵ O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.

⁸ I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

⁹ How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.

¹¹ I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.

¹² Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.

¹³ With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.

¹⁴ I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.

¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

¹⁷ Deal bountifully with your servant,
so that I may live and observe your word.

¹⁸ Open my eyes, so that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.

¹⁹ I live as an alien in the land;
do not hide your commandments from me.

²⁰ My soul is consumed with longing
for your ordinances at all times.

²¹ You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,
who wander from your commandments;

²² take away from me their scorn and contempt,
for I have kept your decrees.

²³ Even though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant will meditate on your statutes.

²⁴ Your decrees are my delight,
they are my counselors.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** John 17:20-26 CEV

²⁰ I am not praying just for these followers. I am also praying for everyone else who will have faith because of what my followers will say about me. ²¹ I want all of them to be one with each other, just as I am one with you and you are one with me. I also want them to be one with us. Then the people of this world will believe that you sent me.

²² I have honored my followers in the same way that you honored me, in order that they may be one with each other, just as we are one. ²³ I am one with them, and you are one with me, so that they may become completely one. Then this world's people will know that you sent me. They will know that you love my followers as much as you love me.

²⁴ Father, I want everyone you have given me to be with me, wherever I am. Then they will see the glory that you have given me, because you loved me before the world was created. ²⁵ Good Father, the people of this world don't know you. But I know you, and my followers know that you sent me. ²⁶ I told them what you are like, and I will tell them even more. Then the love that you have for me will become part of them, and I will be one with them.

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

* **PRAYERS**

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

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

* IN THE MORNING

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

* PRAYERS FOR JOY IN GOD'S CREATION

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

* PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness 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.

* PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly pray to you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry,

sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask 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, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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**

Offer praise to God our Savior because of our Lord Jesus Christ! Only God can keep you from falling and make you pure and joyful in his glorious presence. Before time began and now and forevermore, God is worthy of glory, honor, power, and authority. **Amen.**

Jude 24 & 25 CEV

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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