

Wednesday, April 21, 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.

* OSL

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

* **CANTICLE OF THE RESURRECTION**

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. * OSL

* **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 5:1-12 CEV

One evening, King Belshazzar gave a great banquet for a thousand of his highest officials, and he drank wine with them. ² He got drunk and ordered his servants to bring in the gold and silver cups his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple in Jerusalem. Belshazzar wanted the cups, so that he and all his wives and officials could drink from them.

³⁻⁴ When the gold cups were brought in, everyone at the banquet drank from them and praised their idols made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

⁵ Suddenly a human hand was seen writing on the plaster wall of the palace. The hand was just behind the lampstand, and the king could see it writing. ⁶ He was so

frightened that his face turned pale, his knees started shaking, and his legs became weak.

⁷ The king called in his advisors, who claimed they could talk with the spirits of the dead and understand the meanings found in the stars. He told them, "The man who can read this writing and tell me what it means will become the third most powerful man in my kingdom. He will wear robes of royal purple and a gold chain around his neck."

⁸ All of King Belshazzar's highest officials came in, but not one of them could read the writing or tell what it meant, ⁹ and they were completely puzzled. Now the king was more afraid than ever before, and his face turned white as a ghost.

¹⁰ When the queen heard the king and his officials talking, she came in and said:

Your Majesty, I hope you live forever! Don't be afraid or look so pale. ¹¹ In your kingdom there is a man who has been given special powers by the holy gods. When your father Nebuchadnezzar was king, this man was known to be as smart, intelligent, and wise as the gods themselves. Your father put him in charge of all who claimed they could talk with the spirits or understand the meanings in

the stars or tell about the future. ¹² He also changed the man's name from Daniel to Belteshazzar. Not only is he wise and intelligent, but he can explain dreams and riddles and solve difficult problems. Send for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God!

* **Psalm 38** NRSV

***O my God, do not be far from me;
make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.***

¹ O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger,
or discipline me in your wrath.

² For your arrows have sunk into me,
and your hand has come down on me.

³ There is no soundness in my flesh
because of your indignation;
there is no health in my bones
because of my sin.

⁴ For my iniquities have gone over my head;
they weigh like a burden too heavy for me.

⁵ My wounds grow foul and fester
because of my foolishness;

⁶ I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
all day long I go around mourning.

⁷ For my loins are filled with burning,
and there is no soundness in my flesh.

⁸ I am utterly spent and crushed;
I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

⁹ O Lord, all my longing is known to you;
my sighing is not hidden from you.

¹⁰ My heart throbs, my strength fails me;
as for the light of my eyes—it also has gone from me.

¹¹ My friends and companions stand aloof from my
affliction,
and my neighbors stand far off.

¹² Those who seek my life lay their snares;
those who seek to hurt me speak of ruin,
and meditate treachery all day long.

¹³ But I am like the deaf, I do not hear;
like the mute, who cannot speak.

¹⁴ Truly, I am like one who does not hear,
and in whose mouth is no retort.

¹⁵ But it is for you, O LORD, that I wait;
it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.
¹⁶ For I pray, "Only do not let them rejoice over me,
those who boast against me when my foot slips."
¹⁷ For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever with me.
¹⁸ I confess my iniquity;
I am sorry for my sin.
¹⁹ Those who are my foes without cause are mighty,
and many are those who hate me wrongfully.
²⁰ Those who render me evil for good
are my adversaries because I follow after good.
²¹ Do not forsake me, O LORD;
O my God, do not be far from me;
²² make haste to help me,
O Lord, my salvation.

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

***O my God, do not be far from me;
make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.***

* **WORD:** Luke 4:38-44 CEV

³⁸ Jesus left the meeting place and went to Simon's home. When Jesus got there, he was told that Simon's mother-in-law was sick with a high fever. ³⁹ So Jesus went over to her and ordered the fever to go away. Right then she was able to get up and serve them a meal.

⁴⁰ After the sun had set, people with all kinds of diseases were brought to Jesus. He put his hands on each one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ Demons went out of many people and shouted, "You are the Son of God!" But Jesus ordered the demons not to speak because they knew he was the Messiah.

⁴² The next morning Jesus went out to a place where he could be alone, and crowds came looking for him. When they found him, they tried to stop him from leaving. ⁴³ But Jesus said, "People in other towns must hear the good news about God's kingdom. That's why I was sent." ⁴⁴ So he kept on preaching in the Jewish meeting places in Judea.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* 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)*

* 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 CITIES

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that Holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

* PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. Amen.

* 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.

* **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.**

* 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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