

Wednesday, April 28, 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

* **1st READING: Wisdom 4:16-5:8** CEB

¹⁶ So the dead who did what's right will condemn the ungodly who are still alive, and someone who dies young will condemn the old person who has lived many years but hasn't done what is right. ¹⁷ People will see the death of the wise, but they won't understand the Lord's purposes for them, nor to what end the Lord kept them safe. ¹⁸ Instead, they will laugh at what they see. In the end, however, the Lord will have the last laugh on them. ¹⁹ Then they will be no better than mutilated corpses, a scandal to the rest of the dead forever. The Lord will crush them and leave them lying there speechless. He will shake them from their very foundations. They will waste away in agony. Their memory will be wiped out. ²⁰ They will cower when their sins are counted up. Their lawless deeds will witness against them and convict them.

⁵ Then the one who did do what was right will stand up with full confidence in the very midst of those who caused his suffering and made light of his distress. ² They will tremble with great fear when they see him. They will be amazed that he was delivered so unexpectedly. ³ They will sing a different tune as they gasp and say to themselves: ⁴ He's the one we mocked?! He's the one we insulted? What idiots we were! We thought his life was madness and his death a disgrace. ⁵ How is it that he's now counted among God's children? How is it that he's now considered one of the saints?

⁶ Clearly we were the ones who missed the way to truth. The light that would have shown us the right thing to do hasn't shone for us. That sun didn't rise upon us. ⁷ We got entangled in lawlessness and destruction. We wandered through desolate wildernesses. We didn't know the Lord's way.

⁸ What good did our pride do us? What good were our wealth and pretension?

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God!

* **PSALM 119:49-72** NRSV

⁴⁹ Remember your word to your servant,
in which you have made me hope.

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my distress,
that your promise gives me life.

⁵¹ The arrogant utterly deride me,
but I do not turn away from your law.

⁵² When I think of your ordinances from of old,
I take comfort, O LORD.

⁵³ Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,
those who forsake your law.

⁵⁴ Your statutes have been my songs
wherever I make my home.

⁵⁵ I remember your name in the night, O LORD,
and keep your law.

⁵⁶ This blessing has fallen to me,
for I have kept your precepts.

⁵⁷ The LORD is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.

⁵⁸ I implore your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.

⁵⁹ When I think of your ways,
I turn my feet to your decrees;

⁶⁰ I hurry and do not delay
to keep your commandments.

⁶¹ Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,
I do not forget your law.

⁶² At midnight I rise to praise you,
because of your righteous ordinances.

⁶³ I am a companion of all who fear you,
of those who keep your precepts.

⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes.

⁶⁵ You have dealt well with your servant,
O LORD, according to your word.

⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.

⁶⁷ Before I was humbled I went astray,
but now I keep your word.

⁶⁸ You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes.

⁶⁹ The arrogant smear me with lies,
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.

⁷⁰ Their hearts are fat and gross,

but I delight in your law.

⁷¹ It is good for me that I was humbled,
so that I might learn your statutes.

⁷² The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** Luke 6:27-38 CEB

²⁷ “But I say to you who are willing to hear: Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. ²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on the cheek, offer the other one as well. If someone takes your coat, don’t withhold your shirt either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks and don’t demand your things back from those who take them. ³¹ Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you.

³² “If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ If you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, why should you

be commended? Even sinners lend to sinners expecting to be paid back in full. ³⁵ Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend expecting nothing in return. If you do, you will have a great reward. You will be acting the way children of the Most High act, for he is kind to ungrateful and wicked people. ³⁶ Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate.

³⁷ “Don’t judge, and you won’t be judged. Don’t condemn, and you won’t be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you. A good portion—packed down, firmly shaken, and overflowing—will fall into your lap. The portion you give will determine the portion you receive in return.”

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)*

* 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.

* PRAYER FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* FOR PEACE

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. 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.**

* **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.*

* **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**

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his
face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD
turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**”

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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