

Wednesday, April 7, 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:

***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: Micah 7:7-15** CEV

⁷ But I trust the LORD God
to save me,
and I will wait for him
to answer my prayer.

⁸ My enemies, don't be glad
because of my troubles!
I may have fallen,
but I will get up;
I may be sitting in the dark,
but the LORD is my light.

⁹ I have sinned against the LORD.
And so I must endure his anger,

until he comes to my defense.

But I know that I will see him
making things right for me
and leading me to the light.

¹⁰ You, my enemies, said,
"The LORD God is helpless."

Now each of you
will be disgraced
and put to shame.
I will see you trampled
like mud in the street.

¹¹ Towns of Judah, the day is coming
when your walls will be rebuilt,
and your boundaries enlarged.

¹² People will flock to you
from Assyria and Egypt,
from Babylonia
and everywhere else.

¹³ Those nations will suffer disaster
because of what they did.

¹⁴ Lead your people, LORD!
Come and be our shepherd.

Grasslands surround us,

but we live in a forest.
So lead us to Bashan and Gilead,
and let us find pasture
as we did long ago.

¹⁵ I, the LORD, will work miracles
just as I did
when I led you
out of Egypt.

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God!

* **Psalm 97** NRSV

***Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!***

¹ The LORD is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!
² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his
throne.
³ Fire goes before him,
and consumes his adversaries on every side.
⁴ His lightnings light up the world;

the earth sees and trembles.

⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
and all the peoples behold his glory.

⁷ All worshipers of images are put to shame,
those who make their boast in worthless idols;
all gods bow down before him.

⁸ Zion hears and is glad,
and the towns of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O God.

⁹ For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰ The LORD loves those who hate evil;
he guards the lives of his faithful;
he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

¹¹ Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.

¹² Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

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

***Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD: John 15:1-11** CEV

Jesus said to his disciples:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts away every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit. But he trims clean every branch that does produce fruit, so that it will produce even more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of what I have said to you.

⁴ Stay joined to me, and I will stay joined to you. Just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it stays joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you stay joined to me. ⁵ I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit. But you cannot do anything without me. ⁶ If you don't stay joined to me, you will be thrown

away. You will be like dry branches that are gathered up and burned in a fire.

⁷ Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you. Then you can pray for whatever you want, and your prayer will be answered. ⁸ When you become fruitful disciples of mine, my Father will be honored. ⁹ I have loved you, just as my Father has loved me. So remain faithful to my love for you. ¹⁰ If you obey me, I will keep loving you, just as my Father keeps loving me, because I have obeyed him.

¹¹ I have told you this to make you as completely happy as I am.

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 TRAVELERS

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who must travel in this time of pandemic; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* PRAYER FOR HEROIC SERVICE

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* PRAYER: Wednesday in Holy 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 for ever. **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**

I pray that God, the source of all hope, will infuse our lives with an abundance of joy and peace in the midst of our faith, so that our hope will overflow through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Romans 15:13 *THE VOICE*

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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