

Monday, May 3, 2021

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

* **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:

***New every morning is your love, great God of light,
and all day long you are working for good in the world.
Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with
our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our
Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.***

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT.)

* **WORD:** Wisdom 9:1, 7-18 CEB

¹ God of our ancestors and Lord of mercy, you made everything by your word.

⁷ But you chose me to be king over your people and to be a judge of your sons and daughters. ⁸ You told me to construct a temple on your holy mountain and an altar in the city in which you had taken up residence. It was to be a copy of the holy tent that you had prepared from the beginning.

⁹ You have Wisdom with you. She knows all your works. She was present with you when you were making the world. She knows what pleases you. She knows what someone needs to do to follow your commandments. ¹⁰ Send her out to me from your holy heavens. Send her from your glorious throne so that she may labor with me here and that I may learn what is pleasing to you. ¹¹ She knows and understands everything. She'll guide me wisely in all that I do. Her great honor will guard me. ¹² Then my works will be acceptable. Then I'll be able to judge your people rightly. Then I'll be worthy of my father's great throne.

¹³ What human will ever know God's counsel? Who can understand what God wishes? ¹⁴ Mortals have only a weak capacity for reasoning, and our intentions are uncertain.

¹⁵ The body that is headed for destruction weighs down the

soul. Our earthly container burdens our minds with cares and concerns. ¹⁶ At best, we can barely draw correct inferences concerning things we find on earth. Only after much thought and work do we come to understand what is right in front of us. Who among us then is able to examine heavenly things? ¹⁷ Who's ever known your counsel, unless you gave them wisdom and sent down your Holy Spirit from on high? ¹⁸ Only then did your ways become clear to us on earth. Only then were humans able to learn what pleases you, and were thus rescued by wisdom.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* **Psalm 57** NRSV

***God will send forth his steadfast love
and his faithfulness.***

¹ Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;
in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
until the destroying storms pass by.

² I cry to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

³ He will send from heaven and save me,
he will put to shame those who trample on me. *Selah*
God will send forth his steadfast love and his faithfulness.

⁴ I lie down among lions
that greedily devour human prey;
their teeth are spears and arrows,
their tongues sharp swords.

⁵ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth.

⁶ They set a net for my steps;
my soul was bowed down.
They dug a pit in my path,
but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*

⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast.

I will sing and make melody.

⁸ Awake, my soul!
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn.

⁹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to you among the nations.

¹⁰ For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens;
your faithfulness extends to the clouds.

¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens.
Let your glory be over all the earth.

***God will send forth his steadfast love
and his faithfulness.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** Luke 7:36-50 CEB

³⁶ One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After he entered the Pharisee's home, he took his place at the table. ³⁷ Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster.

³⁸ Standing behind him at his feet and crying, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. ³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. He would know that she is a sinner.

⁴⁰ Jesus replied, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher, speak," he said.

⁴¹ “A certain lender had two debtors. One owed enough money to pay five hundred people for a day’s work. The other owed enough money for fifty. ⁴² When they couldn’t pay, the lender forgave the debts of them both. Which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the largest debt canceled.”

Jesus said, “You have judged correctly.”

⁴⁴ Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn’t give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but she hasn’t stopped kissing my feet since I came in.

⁴⁶ You didn’t anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. ⁴⁷ This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little.”

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

⁴⁹ The other table guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this person that even forgives sins?”

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

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*.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **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

* **COMMEMORATION:** Thomas Coke

Thomas Coke was born in Wales in 1747 and educated at Oxford where he received B.A., M.A., and Doctor of Civil Law degrees. An ordained Anglican priest, he was forced by disgruntled parishioners to leave his parish because of his Methodist sympathies. From 1777 through

1784 he served as John Wesley's secretary, confidant, and legal advisor.

The always-ambitious Coke wrote to Wesley pleading for his personal backing and the authority to ordain others for America, saying, "I may want all the influence, in America, which you can throw into my scale." [clx] Wesley then appointed Coke as the first superintendent of the Methodists in America. On December 24, 1784 in Baltimore, "Dr. Coke" (as he was called in America) convened the Christmas Conference, a gathering of Methodist preachers who officially organized the Methodist Episcopal Church in America. He and Asbury became its first bishops. Coke was consistently and adamantly opposed to slavery, and in 1785 he and Asbury visited George Washington to present an antislavery petition. They met with Washington again in 1789 to congratulate him upon his election to the presidency.

But the courtly and well-educated Coke was not always enthusiastically received as a leader among American Methodists. His ties with British Methodism and mission work meant that he was more frequently abroad than in America. In 1786 he became caught up in a conflict over Wesley's authority in America. The 1808 General Conference ended Coke's official relationship with American

Methodism by declaring that he was a resident of Europe and rescinding his authority as superintendent.

Coke continued in his missionary work. Crossing the Atlantic eighteen times, he was involved in Methodist expansion in England, Ireland, the United States, Nova Scotia, and the West Indies and gave away his personal fortune in support of these missionary endeavors. He died while traveling to Ceylon and was buried in the Indian Ocean.

* For All the Saints

* **PRAYERS**

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

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

* **COLLECT: Thomas Coke**

Holy and merciful God, in your love for the world you raised Thomas Coke to be an evangelist, a herald of the good news: strengthen and guide those entrusted with the proclamation of your Word that as they make known your redeeming love we may heed and receive their glad tidings,

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* For All the Saints

* PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* EASTER SEASON INTERCESSION

O God, our grove, our lover, our well: In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us into your garden. Marry us for now and for ever, and give us to eat from the tree of life; through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.

* PRAYERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may So move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* FOR THE HARVEST OF LANDS AND WATERS

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with abundance: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through 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

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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**

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word. 2 Th. 2:16-17 NRSV

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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