

Saturday, May 15, 2021

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

* **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.

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**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 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:

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT.)

* **WORD:** Ezek. 3:4-17 CEB

⁴ Then he said to me: Human one, go! Go to the house of Israel and speak my words to them. ⁵ You aren't being sent to a people whose language and speech are difficult and obscure but to the house of Israel. ⁶ No, not to many peoples who speak difficult and obscure languages, whose words you wouldn't understand. If I did send you to them, they would listen to you. ⁷ But the house of Israel—they will refuse to listen to you because they refuse to listen to me. The whole house of Israel is hardheaded and hard-hearted too. ⁸ I've now hardened your face so that you can meet them head-on. ⁹ I've made your forehead

like a diamond, harder than stone. Don't be afraid of them or shrink away from them, because they are a household of rebels.

¹⁰ He said to me: Human one, listen closely, and take to heart every word I say to you. ¹¹ Then go to the exiles, to your people's children. Whether they listen or not, speak to them and say: The LORD God proclaims!

¹² Then a wind lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great quaking sound from his place. Blessed is the LORD's glory! ¹³ The sound was the creatures' wings beating against each other and the sound of the wheels beside them; it was a great rumbling noise. ¹⁴ Then the wind picked me up and took me away. With the LORD's power pressing down against me I went away, bitter and deeply angry, ¹⁵ and I came to the exiles who lived beside the Chebar River at Tel-abib. I stayed there among them for seven desolate days.

¹⁶ At the end of the seven days, the LORD's word came to me: ¹⁷ Human one, I've made you a lookout for the house of Israel. When you hear a word from me, deliver my warning.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 90](#) NRSV

***So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.***

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

² Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn us back to dust,
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

⁴ For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.

⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶ in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷ For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

⁹ For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰ The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹ Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

¹² So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

¹³ Turn, O LORD! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶ Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷ Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

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

***So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** **Luke 9:37-50** CEB

³⁷ The next day, when Jesus, Peter, John, and James had come down from the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus.

³⁸ A man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to take a look at my son, my only child. ³⁹ Look, a spirit seizes him and, without any warning, he screams. It shakes him and causes him to foam at the mouth. It tortures him and rarely leaves him alone. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to throw it out, but they couldn't."

⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You faithless and crooked generation, how long will I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was coming, the demon threw him down and shook him violently. Jesus spoke harshly to the unclean spirit, healed the child, and

gave him back to his father. ⁴³ Everyone was overwhelmed by God's greatness.

While everyone was marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ "Take these words to heart: the Human One^[a] is about to be delivered into human hands." ⁴⁵ They didn't understand this statement. Its meaning was hidden from them so they couldn't grasp it. And they were afraid to ask him about it.

⁴⁶ An argument arose among the disciples about which of them was the greatest. ⁴⁷ Aware of their deepest thoughts, Jesus took a little child and had the child stand beside him. ⁴⁸ Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me. Whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever is least among you all is the greatest."

⁴⁹ John replied, "Master, we saw someone throwing demons out in your name, and we tried to stop him because he isn't in our group of followers."

⁵⁰ But Jesus replied, "Don't stop him, because whoever isn't against you is for you."

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)*

* FOR A SICK PERSON

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly ask you to recognize, visit, and relieve your sick servants for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; preserve them from the temptations of the enemy; and give them patience under their affliction. In your good time, restore them to health, and enable

them to live the remainder of their lives in your awe, and to your glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* EASTER SEASON INTERCESSION

O God, our sovereign, our banquet, our crown: In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us into your palace. Train us to be heirs to your throne, that we may shield the needy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Alleluia.

* FOR PEACE

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

* A GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplish-ments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. **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**

Brothers and sisters, let me leave you with a blessing:
May peace and love with faith be yours from God the
Father and the Lord Jesus the Anointed. May His grace
surround all who love our Lord Jesus the Anointed with a
never-ending love. **Amen!**

Ephesians 6:23-24 The VOICE

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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