

Saturday, May 22, 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:** **Ezekiel 43:1-12** CEB

Then he led me to the east gate, <sup>2</sup> where the glory of Israel's God was coming in from the east. Its sound was like the sound of a mighty flood, and the earth was lit up with his glory. <sup>3</sup> What appeared when I looked was like what I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and also like what I saw at the Chebar River, and I fell on my face. <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD's glory came into the temple by way of the east gate. <sup>5</sup> A wind picked me up and brought me to the inner courtyard, and there the LORD's glory filled the temple. <sup>6</sup> A man was standing next to me, but the voice that I heard came from inside the temple. <sup>7</sup> He said to me,

Human one, this is the place for my throne and the place for the soles of my feet, where I will dwell among the Israelites forever. The house of Israel will never again defile my holy name, neither they nor their kings, with their disloyalties and with their kings' corpses at the shrines.

<sup>8</sup> When they set their plazas with mine and their doorposts next to mine, the wall was between us. They defiled my holy name with their detestable practices, so I consumed them in my anger. <sup>9</sup> Now let them remove their disloyalties and their kings' corpses from me, and I will dwell among them forever.

<sup>10</sup> You, human one, describe the temple to the house of Israel. Let them be humiliated because of their guilt when they think about its design. <sup>11</sup> When they feel humiliated by all that they have done, make known to them the shape of the temple and its adornment, its exits and its entrances, its entire plan and all of its regulations. Write them down in their sight so that they may observe all of its entire plan and all its regulations and perform them.

<sup>12</sup> These are the instructions for the temple: the top of the mountain, as well as its boundaries all around, are most holy. These are the instructions for the temple.

Holy wisdom, holy word. ***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* [Psalm 108](#) NRSV

***Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.  
I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
among the peoples.***

<sup>1</sup> My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;  
I will sing and make melody.

Awake, my soul!

<sup>2</sup> Awake, O harp and lyre!

I will awake the dawn.

<sup>3</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples,  
and I will sing praises to you among the nations.

<sup>4</sup> For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

<sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
and let your glory be over all the earth.

<sup>6</sup> Give victory with your right hand, and answer me,  
so that those whom you love may be rescued.

<sup>7</sup> God has promised in his sanctuary:  
“With exultation I will divide up Shechem,

and portion out the Vale of Succoth.

<sup>8</sup> Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine;

Ephraim is my helmet;

Judah is my scepter.

<sup>9</sup> Moab is my washbasin;

on Edom I hurl my shoe;

over Philistia I shout in triumph.”

<sup>10</sup> Who will bring me to the fortified city?

Who will lead me to Edom?

<sup>11</sup> Have you not rejected us, O God?

You do not go out, O God, with our armies.

<sup>12</sup> O grant us help against the foe,

for human help is worthless.

<sup>13</sup> With God we shall do valiantly;

it is he who will tread down our foes.

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

***Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.  
I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
among the peoples.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **WORD:** Luke 11:14-23 CEB

<sup>14</sup> Jesus was throwing out a demon that causes muteness. When the demon was gone, the man who couldn't speak began to talk. The crowds were amazed. <sup>15</sup> But some of them said, "He throws out demons with the authority of Beelzebul, the ruler of demons." <sup>16</sup> Others were testing him, seeking a sign from heaven.

<sup>17</sup> Because Jesus knew what they were thinking, he said to them, "Every kingdom involved in civil war becomes a wasteland, and a house torn apart by divisions will collapse. <sup>18</sup> If Satan is at war with himself, how will his kingdom endure? I ask this because you say that I throw out demons by the authority of Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup> If I throw out demons by the authority of Beelzebul, then by whose authority do your followers throw them out? Therefore, they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup> But if I throw out demons by the power of God, then God's kingdom has already overtaken you. <sup>21</sup> When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his possessions are secure. <sup>22</sup> But as soon as a stronger one attacks and overpowers him, the stronger one takes away the armor he had trusted and divides the stolen goods.

<sup>23</sup> "Whoever isn't with me is against me, and whoever doesn't gather with me, scatters.

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, Holy One, our altar, our cloud: In the resurrection of your Son you have brought us into your temple. Accept the sacrifices we offer, and draw us into the fire of your spirit; through Christ our Lord. **Amen. Alleluia.**

\* PRAYERS FOR OUR ENEMIES

***O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and***

***revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\* PRAYERS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

***Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State of New Jersey, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus 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

Grant, we pray, Almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into heaven, so we may also in heart and mind there ascend, and with him continually dwell; who lives and reigns with you and 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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