

Saturday, May 8, 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:** **Wisdom 19:1-8,18-22** CEB

¹ but anger without mercy assaulted the ungodly right up to the very end. God knew before they did what was yet to come: how, ² after agreeing to send your people away, and in fact sending them away in haste, their enemies would change their minds and pursue them. ³ And so, even as they still held in their arms those whom they mourned and even as they still raised up their laments at the graves of their dead, another thoughtless plan occurred to them. They decided to pursue those who had fled even after they had agreed to their request to send them away. ⁴ A fate they fully deserved drew them to this

inevitable decision and made them forget about all the things that had so recently happened to them. All this took place so that they might complete the one punishment lacking in their sufferings.

⁵ So at the same time as your people began an incredible journey, their enemies found a strange death. ⁶ The whole creation began to take on a new shape in its very nature. It once again submitted to your commands so that your children might be kept unharmed. ⁷ A cloud appeared, casting its shadow over their camp. Dry land appeared where before there had been only water. It presented them an open path through the Red Sea, ^[a] a grassy plain where before there had been only violent surf. ⁸ Those who were protected by your hand passed through as a single nation, seeing amazing wonders.

¹⁸ If we are careful to observe events, we can see just how the elements of the universe are transformed. It's the same transformation that happens when someone changes the sounds that a harp makes by changing the key while continuing to play the same melody. ¹⁹ In this way, land animals were changed into underwater creatures, while animals that swam in the waters now moved onto the land. ²⁰ Fire was able to burn on the open

water, while water forgot that it was supposed to put fire out. ²¹ Flames no longer burned the exposed flesh of living beings, who were able to walk through the flames. Flames didn't even melt the frostlike crystals that were a kind of food of everlasting life.

²² In every way, Lord, you have made your people great and given them great honor. You never neglected them, but you stood by them in every time and place.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **PSALM 75** NRSV

¹ We give thanks to you, O God;
we give thanks; your name is near.
People tell of your wondrous deeds.

² At the set time that I appoint
I will judge with equity.

³ When the earth totters, with all its inhabitants,
it is I who keep its pillars steady. *Selah*

⁴ I say to the boastful, "Do not boast,"
and to the wicked, "Do not lift up your horn;
⁵ do not lift up your horn on high,
or speak with insolent neck."

⁶ For not from the east or from the west
and not from the wilderness comes lifting up;
⁷ but it is God who executes judgment,
putting down one and lifting up another.

⁸ For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup
with foaming wine, well mixed;
he will pour a draught from it,
and all the wicked of the earth
shall drain it down to the dregs.

⁹ But I will rejoice forever;
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

¹⁰ All the horns of the wicked I will cut off,
but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** **Luke 9:1-17** CEB

Jesus called the Twelve together and he gave them power and authority over all demons and to heal sicknesses. ² He sent them out to proclaim God's kingdom and to heal the sick. ³ He told them, "Take nothing for the journey—no walking stick, no bag, no bread, no money, not even an extra shirt. ⁴ Whatever house you enter, remain there until you leave that place. ⁵ Wherever they don't welcome you, as you leave that city, shake the dust off your feet as a witness against them." ⁶ They departed and went through the villages proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

⁷ Herod the ruler heard about everything that was happening. He was confused because some people were saying that John had been raised from the dead, ⁸ others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the ancient prophets had come back to life. ⁹ Herod said, "I beheaded John, so now who am I hearing about?" Herod wanted to see him.

¹⁰ When the apostles returned, they described for Jesus what they had done. Taking them with him, Jesus withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹ When the crowds figured it out, they followed him. He welcomed

them, spoke to them about God's kingdom, and healed those who were sick.

¹² When the day was almost over, the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so that they can go to the nearby villages and countryside and find lodging and food, because we are in a deserted place."

¹³ He replied, "You give them something to eat."

But they said, "We have no more than five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all these people." ¹⁴ (They said this because about five thousand men were present.)

Jesus said to his disciples, "Seat them in groups of about fifty." ¹⁵ They did so, and everyone was seated. ¹⁶ He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, and broke them and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. ¹⁷ Everyone ate until they were full, and the disciples filled twelve baskets with the leftovers.

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

* **COMMEMORATION:** JULIAN OF NORWICH

Julian lived as an anchoress in a cell of the parish Church of St. Julian in Norwich, England. Little is known of her life other than what she tells us in her writings and what Margery Kempe reports of meeting with her. Julian's remarkable work, *Showings* (or *Revelations of Divine Love*), is the first book known to have been authored by a woman in English. She wrote the "Short Text" directly after sixteen visions visited upon her on May 13, 1373. The "Long Text," written twenty years later, consists of Julian's reflections on the meanings of the revelations. Living at a time of multiple disasters in the world (bubonic plague, frequent famine, and the Hundred Years' War), Julian saw vivid images of Christ's passion, convincing

her how much Christ loved her. She then wrote of God as "Creator ... protector ... lover."

* 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:** JULIAN OF NORWICH

Lord God, in your compassion you granted to the Lady Julian many revelations of your nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek you above all things, for in giving us yourself you give us all; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

* Holy Women, Holy Men

* **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 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.**

* PRAYER ATTRIBUTED TO FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there

is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

* FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; 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

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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