

Thursday, May 6, 2021

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1

* **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.**

PSALM 90:14

* **CANTICLE OF THE RESURRECTION**

*Alleluia! 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.*

Alleluia!

* OSL

* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;
And also with you.

Let us pray:

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We give you hearty thanks for the rest of the past night and for the gift of a new day, with its opportunities of pleasing you. Grant that we may so pass its hours in the perfect freedom of your service, that at eventide we may again give thanks unto you. Amen.

[UM Book of Worship]

* **1st READING:** **Wisdom 14:27-15:3** CEB

²⁷ The worship of nameless idols is the origin of all evil—its cause as well as its result. ²⁸ People begin to party so wildly that they all go mad. They prophesy lies. They live in such a way that everything they do is wrong. They bear false witness, ²⁹ but because they have entrusted themselves into the hands of lifeless idols, they don't expect any harm to come from swearing false pledges. ³⁰ A double judgment will hunt them down—first, because they acted wickedly toward God when they gave their attention to idols; and second, because they made solemn pledges falsely out of contempt for what was holy. ³¹ It isn't the power of the things by which they made these solemn pledges but justice that will pursue them until it punishes them for doing wrong.

15 But you, our God, are good and true. You are very patient. You govern everything in your mercy. ² Even if we sin, we will still belong to you because we know your power. But we won't sin, since you consider us as your own. ³ Perfection of life is to know you. To recognize your power is the root from which everlasting life grows.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **Psalm 71** NRSV

***For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.***

¹ In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

² In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me and save me.

³ Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.

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⁴ Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

⁵ For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

⁶ Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually of you.

⁷ I have been like a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.

⁸ My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all day long.

⁹ Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
do not forsake me when my strength is spent.

¹⁰ For my enemies speak concerning me,
and those who watch for my life consult together.

¹¹ They say, "Pursue and seize that person
whom God has forsaken,
for there is no one to deliver."

¹² O God, do not be far from me;
O my God, make haste to help me!

¹³ Let my accusers be put to shame and consumed;
let those who seek to hurt me
be covered with scorn and disgrace.

¹⁴ But I will hope continually,
and will praise you yet more and more.

¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,
of your deeds of salvation all day long,
though their number is past my knowledge.

¹⁶ I will come praising the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD,
I will praise your righteousness, yours alone.

¹⁷ O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs,
O God, do not forsake me,

until I proclaim your might
to all the generations to come.

Your power ¹⁹ and your righteousness, O God,
reach the high heavens.

You who have done great things,
O God, who is like you?

²⁰ You who have made me see many troubles and
calamities

will revive me again;
from the depths of the earth
you will bring me up again.

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²¹ You will increase my honor,
and comfort me once again.

²² I will also praise you with the harp
for your faithfulness, O my God;
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,
O Holy One of Israel.

²³ My lips will shout for joy
when I sing praises to you;
my soul also, which you have rescued.

²⁴ All day long my tongue will talk of your righteous help,
for those who tried to do me harm
have been put to shame, and disgraced.

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

***For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** Luke 8:26-39 CEB

²⁶ Jesus and his disciples sailed to the Gerasenes' land, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a certain man met him. The man was from the city and was possessed by demons. For a long time, he had lived among the tombs, naked and homeless. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down before him. Then he shouted, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" ²⁹ He said this because Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had taken possession of him, so he would be bound with leg irons and chains and placed under guard. But he would break his restraints, and the demon would force him into the wilderness.

³⁰ Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had entered him. ³¹ They pleaded with him not to order them to go back into the abyss. ³² A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs. Jesus gave them permission, ³³ and the demons left the man and entered the pigs. The herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

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³⁴ When those who tended the pigs saw what happened, they ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. ³⁵ People came to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully dressed and completely sane. They were filled with awe. ³⁶ Those people who had actually seen what had happened told them how the demon-possessed man had been delivered. ³⁷ Then everyone gathered from the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave their area because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and returned across the lake. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged to come along with Jesus as one of his disciples. Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return home and tell the story of what God has done for you." So he went throughout the city proclaiming what Jesus had done for him.

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**

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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 communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* 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,

* **PRAYERS**

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

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

* **FOR HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL**

For those we have lifted up today, may God the Father
bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit
give you strength. May God the holy and undivided
Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring
you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and
reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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* 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 FAMILIES

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sets the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them, we ask you, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who have become family. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kind hearted one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; 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.***

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* 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**

May grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and
Jesus the Anointed, the Father's own Son, surround you
and be with you always in truth and love. **Amen.**

2 JOHN 3 VOICE

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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