

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

*On this day the Lord has acted;*

*we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24*

**\* 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.***

**\* MORNING CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

Come, let us sing to the Ho-ly One; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal-*vation*.

***Let us come before God's presence  
with thanks-giving,\****

***and raise a loud shout with psalms.***

For you, O God, are a great God,\*

you are great a-bove all gods.

***In your hand are the caverns of the earth,\****

***and the heights of the hills are yours also.***

The sea is yours, for you made it,\*

and your hands have molded the dry land.

***Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,\****

***and kneel before God, our Maker.***

For you are our God,

and we are the people of your pasture

and the sheep of your hand.\*

***Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!***

PSALM 95:1-7

**\* MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One be with you;

***And also with you.***

Let us pray:

***Oh God, The Holy Spirit,  
come to us, and among us;  
come as the wind, and cleanse us;  
come as the fire, and burn;  
come as the dew, and refresh;  
convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and  
lives to our great good and to your greater glory;  
and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen***

[UM Book of Worship.]

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING:** **Wisdom 10:1-21** CEB

Wisdom kept watch over the world's first-formed parent, when he alone had been created. She delivered him from his grave misstep. <sup>2</sup> Wisdom gave him the strength to have dominion over everything.

<sup>3</sup> When a wicked man disregarded Wisdom in his anger, he perished along with his desire to murder his brother.

<sup>4</sup> Because of him, the earth was flooded. Wisdom again came to the rescue. She took a man who did what was right and steered him straight on a vessel made of cheap wood.

<sup>5</sup> When the peoples of the world were thrown into confusion by the combined force of their wickedness,

Wisdom found one who did what was right and kept him pure before God. She even kept him strong when he would have been swayed by compassion for his child.

<sup>6</sup> When the ungodly were about to be wiped out, Wisdom saved a man who did what was right. He was able to flee from the fire that descended on the five cities. <sup>7</sup> A smoking wasteland is all that remains, witnessing to their wickedness. Plants there never produce fully formed fruit. A pillar of salt still stands there as a reminder of a faithless being. <sup>8</sup> By trying to get along without Wisdom, they didn't recognize what was good. In doing so, they left a lasting memorial of their foolishness for everyone to see. They were unable to hide the things that led to their downfall.

<sup>9</sup> But Wisdom rescues her servants from their trials.

<sup>10</sup> When a man, who did what was right, fled from his brother's anger, Wisdom led him on straight paths. She showed him God's kingdom and gave him knowledge of holy things. She caused him to prosper through his handiworks and increased the fruit of his labors. <sup>11</sup> When some, because of greed, sought to get the upper hand over him, she stood by him and made him even richer.

<sup>12</sup> She protected him from his enemies and kept him safe from those who set an ambush for him. She intervened on

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his behalf in a difficult contest so that he might know that godliness is more powerful than anything.

<sup>13</sup> When a man who did what was right was sold into slavery, she didn't abandon him. She rescued him from sin. <sup>14</sup> She even went down into the pit with him. She didn't forsake him when he was in chains. In the end, she obtained for him the symbol of kingly rule and authority over those who would have ruled over him. She showed that those who had accused him were liars. She gave him eternal glory.

<sup>15</sup> Wisdom rescued a holy people and a pure generation from the grip of people who were crushing them. <sup>16</sup> She entered the soul of a man who served the Lord. She enabled him to oppose terrifying kings by means of signs and wonders. <sup>17</sup> She rewarded the holy ones for their labors and led them along a wonderful route. She became a shelter for them by day and a flaming shower of stars by night. <sup>18</sup> She carried them across the Red Sea and led them through deep waters. <sup>19</sup> She drowned their enemies and caused the depths to boil up over them. <sup>20</sup> The people who did what was right then stripped the ungodly of their weapons. All together they sang hymns to your holy name, Lord. They praised your hand, which had defended

and fought for them. <sup>21</sup> Wisdom opens the mouths of those who can't speak and puts clear words on the tongues of infants.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* [Psalm 61](#) NRSV

***Hear my cry, O God;***

***listen to my prayer.***

<sup>1</sup> Hear my cry, O God;

listen to my prayer.

<sup>2</sup> From the end of the earth I call to you,  
when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock

that is higher than I;

<sup>3</sup> for you are my refuge,  
a strong tower against the enemy.

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<sup>4</sup> Let me abide in your tent forever,  
find refuge under the shelter of your wings. *Selah*  
<sup>5</sup> For you, O God, have heard my vows;  
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your  
name.  
<sup>6</sup> Prolong the life of the king;  
may his years endure to all generations!  
<sup>7</sup> May he be enthroned forever before God;  
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over  
him!  
<sup>8</sup> So I will always sing praises to your name,  
as I pay my vows day after day.  
Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,  
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

***Hear my cry, O God;  
listen to my prayer.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **WORD:** Luke 8:1-15 CEB

Soon afterward, Jesus traveled through the cities and villages, preaching and proclaiming the good news of God's kingdom. The Twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup> along with some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses. Among them were Mary Magdalene (from whom seven demons had been thrown out), <sup>3</sup> Joanna (the wife of Herod's servant Chuza), Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

<sup>4</sup> When a great crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from one city after another, he spoke to them in a parable: <sup>5</sup> "A farmer went out to scatter his seed. As he was scattering it, some fell on the path where it was crushed, and the birds in the sky came and ate it. <sup>6</sup> Other seed fell on rock. As it grew, it dried up because it had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorns grew with the plants and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed landed on good soil. When it grew, it produced one hundred times more grain than was scattered." As he said this, he called out, "Everyone who has ears should pay attention."

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked him what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup> He said, "You have been given the mysteries of God's

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kingdom, but these mysteries come to everyone else in parables so that *when they see, they can't see, and when they hear, they can't understand.*

<sup>11</sup> “The parable means this: The seed is God’s word.

<sup>12</sup> The seed on the path are those who hear, but then the devil comes and steals the word from their hearts so that they won’t believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup> The seed on the rock are those who receive the word joyfully when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while but fall away when they are tempted. <sup>14</sup> As for the seed that fell among thorny plants, these are the ones who, as they go about their lives, are choked by the concerns, riches, and pleasures of life, and their fruit never matures. <sup>15</sup> The seed that fell on good soil are those who hear the word and commit themselves to it with a good and upright heart. Through their resolve, they bear fruit.

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.*

\* **COMMEMORATION: MONICA**

The mother of Augustine, the great theologian of the fourth and fifth centuries, Monica was a strong, tenacious woman of faith. Born to Christian parents in North Africa, she was raised with a strict religious education to become a woman of profound piety and prayer. The hardships she overcame in her life were numerous. After a drinking problem in her youth, she was confronted and was able to stop. She married an unbeliever who had a hot temper and was unfaithful to her, but through persistence she convinced him to be baptized one year before his death. She took care of a difficult mother-in-law in her own home and finally won her over through her loyalty and compassion. She raised three children, the most promising of which spurned her and her religion until his adult conversion. Monica stood by her beliefs to the point of refusing to allow her talented son to live with her during his period of Manichean beliefs.

Monica was known for her constant piety and prayer. She prayed resolutely for the conversion of her son and made offerings at the altar twice daily on his behalf.

\* 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: MONICA**

O Lord, who through spiritual discipline strengthened your servant Monnica to persevere in offering her love and prayers and tears for the conversion of her husband and of Augustine their son: Deepen our devotion, we pray, and use us in accordance with your will to bring others, even our own kindred, to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

\* Holy Women, Holy Men

\* PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

***Gracious God, as your son wept with Mary and Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, look with compassion this day on those who grieve. Grant them the assurance of your presence now and faith in your eternal goodness, that in them may be fulfilled the promise that those who mourn shall be comforted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

United Methodist Hymnal – *adapted*

\* 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 FOR IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

***O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\* PRAYER FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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.*



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\* **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 the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13:14 NASB

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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