

Wednesday, June 2, 2021:

* **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** - *The Second Song of Isaiah*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
call upon him when he draws near.
***Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the evil ones their thoughts;***

And let them turn to the Lord,
and he will have compassion,
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

***For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.***

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

***For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,***

Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating,

***So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;***

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:6-11

* **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

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: Deuteronomy 13:1-11** CEB

Now if a prophet or a dream interpreter appears among you and performs a sign or wonder for you, ² and the sign or wonder that was spoken actually occurs; if he says: “Come on! We should follow other gods”—ones you haven’t experienced—“and we should worship them,” ³ you must not listen to that prophet’s or dream interpreter’s words, because the LORD your God is testing you to see if you love the LORD your God with all your mind and all your being. ⁴ You must follow the LORD your God alone! Revere him! Follow his commandments! Obey his voice! Worship him! Cling to him—no other! ⁵ That prophet or dream interpreter must be executed because he encouraged you to turn away from the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt, who redeemed you from

the house of slavery; they tried to lead you away from the path the LORD your God commanded you to take. Remove such evil from your community!

⁶ Similarly, if one of your relatives—even one of your own siblings—or your own son or daughter or your dear spouse or best friend entices you secretly, if someone like that says: “Come on! We should follow and worship other gods”—ones that neither you nor your ancestors have experienced, ⁷ gods from all the neighboring peoples, whether nearby or far away, from one end of the earth to the other— ⁸ don’t give in to them! Don’t obey them! Don’t have any mercy on them! Don’t have compassion on them and don’t protect them! ⁹ Instead, you must execute them. Your own hand must be against them from the beginning of the execution; the hand of all the people will be involved at the end. ¹⁰ Stone them until they are dead because they desired to lead you away from the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹¹ All Israel will hear about this and be afraid. They won’t do that sort of evil thing among you again.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* **PSALM 119:49-72** CEB

***The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes.***

⁴⁹ Remember your word to your servant,
in which you have made me hope.

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my distress,
that your promise gives me life.

⁵¹ The arrogant utterly deride me,
but I do not turn away from your law.

⁵² When I think of your ordinances from of old,
I take comfort, O LORD.

⁵³ Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,
those who forsake your law.

⁵⁴ Your statutes have been my songs
wherever I make my home.

⁵⁵ I remember your name in the night, O LORD,
and keep your law.

⁵⁶ This blessing has fallen to me,
for I have kept your precepts.

***The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes.***

⁵⁷ The LORD is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.

⁵⁸ I implore your favor with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.

⁵⁹ When I think of your ways,
I turn my feet to your decrees;

⁶⁰ I hurry and do not delay
to keep your commandments.

⁶¹ Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,
I do not forget your law.

⁶² At midnight I rise to praise you,
because of your righteous ordinances.

⁶³ I am a companion of all who fear you,
of those who keep your precepts.

***⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes.***

⁶⁵ You have dealt well with your servant,
O LORD, according to your word.

⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.

⁶⁷ Before I was humbled I went astray,
but now I keep your word.

⁶⁸ You are good and do good;

teach me your statutes.

⁶⁹ The arrogant smear me with lies,
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.

⁷⁰ Their hearts are fat and gross,
but I delight in your law.

⁷¹ It is good for me that I was humbled,
so that I might learn your statutes.

⁷² The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

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

***The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL: Luke 17:20-37** CEB

²⁰ Pharisees asked Jesus when God's kingdom was coming. He replied, "God's kingdom isn't coming with signs that are easily noticed. ²¹ Nor will people say, 'Look,

here it is!' or 'There it is!' Don't you see? God's kingdom is already among you."

²² Then Jesus said to the disciples, "The time will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Human One, and you won't see it. ²³ People will say to you, 'Look there!' or 'Look here!' Don't leave or go chasing after them. ²⁴ The Human One will appear on his day in the same way that a flash of lightning lights up the sky from one end to the other. ²⁵ However, first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

²⁶ "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be during the days of the Human One. ²⁷ People were eating, drinking, marrying, and being given in marriage until the day Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise in the days of Lot, people were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building. ²⁹ But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ That's the way it will be on the day the Human One is revealed. ³¹ On that day, those on the roof, whose possessions are in the house, shouldn't come down to grab them. Likewise, those in the field shouldn't turn back. ³² Remember Lot's wife!
³³ Whoever tries to preserve their life will lose it, but

whoever loses their life will preserve it. ³⁴ I tell you, on that night two people will be in the same bed: one will be taken and the other left. ³⁵ Two women will be grinding grain together: one will be taken and the other left.”

³⁷ The disciples asked, “Where, Lord?”

Jesus said, “The vultures gather wherever there’s a dead body.”

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:** The Martyrs Of Lyons (177)

In Book Five of his Ecclesiastical History, the fourth-century historian Eusebius of Caesarea quotes extensively from the text of a letter written in the year 177 from

Christians in the cities of Vienne and Lyons in Gaul to their Christian sisters and brothers on Asia Minor. Portions of Gaul were populated by natives of Asia Minor (Irenaeus was such a person), and the two Christian communities maintained ties of fellowship. The letter describes the outbreak of persecution of Christians in Lyons. . . .

Popular sentiment rose so strongly against the Christians in Lyons that they were subject to increasing acts of violence and murder, first by mobs and then by organized public spectacle. The letter mentions some of those martyred by name: Sanctus, Blandina, Ponticus, Biblis, Alexander, Attalus, Maturus, and their bishop Pothinus, more than ninety years old. The letter reports the tortures inflicted upon Blandina, and the martyrs' significance for faith.

* 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: The Martyrs Of Lyons (177)**

Fearless Jesus who suffered a baptism of blood, as we celebrate The Martyrs Of Lyons who confessed your name in the face of the spiritual forces of wickedness and death-dealing scorn, renew in us our baptismal promise to reject evil, to resist injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves, and to openly confess you as Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

* For All the Saints

* 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.**

* PRAYERS FOR THE POOR AND THE NEGLECTED

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute,

the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* PRAYER FOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S CREATION

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of 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 and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, 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**

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his
face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD
turn his face toward you and give you peace. ***Amen.***”

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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