

Wednesday, May 26, 2021:

*Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through
our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:57*

* **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:

Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see life clearly and, in your service, find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Augustine

* **1st READING: Deuteronomy 4:25-31** CEB

²⁵ Once you have had children and grandchildren and have grown old on the land, if you ruin things by making an idol, in any form whatsoever, and do what is evil in the eyes of the LORD your God and anger him, ²⁶ I call heaven and earth as my witnesses against you today: You will definitely disappear—and quickly—from the land that you are crossing over the Jordan River to possess. You won't

extend your time there but will instead be totally destroyed. ²⁷ The LORD will scatter you among the nations. Only a very few of you will survive in the countries where the LORD will drag you. ²⁸ There you will worship other gods, made of wood and stone by human hands—gods that cannot see, listen, eat, or smell. ²⁹ You will seek the LORD your God from there, and you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your being. ³⁰ In your distress, when all these things happen to you in the future, you will return to the LORD your God and you will obey his voice, ³¹ because the LORD your God is a compassionate God. He won't let you go, he won't destroy you, and he won't forget the covenant that he swore to your ancestors.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* **PSALM 38** CEB

Please, my God, don't be far from me!

Come quickly and help me, my Lord, my salvation!

¹ Please, LORD, don't punish me when you are mad; don't discipline me when you are furious.

² Your arrows have pierced me;
your fist has come down hard on me.
³ There's nothing in my body that isn't broken
because of your rage;
there's no health in my bones
because of my sin.
⁴ My wrongdoings are stacked higher than my head;
they are a weight that's way too heavy for me.
⁵ My wounds reek; they are all infected
because of my stupidity.
⁶ I am hunched over, completely down;
I wander around all day long, sad.
⁷ My insides are burning up;
there's nothing in my body that isn't broken.
⁸ I'm worn out, completely crushed;
I groan because of my miserable heart.
⁹ Everything I long for is laid out before you, my Lord;
my sighs aren't hidden from you.
¹⁰ My heart pounds; my strength abandons me.
Even the light of my eyes is gone.
¹¹ My loved ones and friends keep their distance
from me in my sickness;
those who were near me now stay far away.
¹² Those who want me dead lay traps;

those who want me harmed utter threats,
muttering lies all day long.
¹³ But I'm like someone who is deaf,
who can't hear;
like someone who can't speak,
whose mouth won't open.
¹⁴ I've become like a person
who doesn't hear what is being said,
whose mouth has no good comeback.
¹⁵ But I wait for you, LORD!
You will answer, my Lord, my God!
¹⁶ Because I prayed:
"Don't let them celebrate over me
or exalt themselves over me when my foot slips,"
¹⁷ because I'm very close to falling,
and my pain is always with me.
¹⁸ Yes, I confess my wrongdoing;
I'm worried about my sin.
¹⁹ But my mortal enemies are so strong;
those who hate me for no reason seem countless.
²⁰ Those who give, repay good with evil;
they oppose me for pursuing good.
²¹ Don't leave me all alone, LORD!
Please, my God, don't be far from me!

²² Come quickly and help me,
my Lord, my salvation!

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

Please, my God, don't be far from me!

Come quickly and help me, my Lord, my salvation!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD: Luke 15:1-2,11-32** CEB

¹⁵ All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him.

² The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

¹¹ Jesus said, "A certain man had two sons. ¹² The younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the inheritance.' Then the father divided his estate between them. ¹³ Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far

away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

¹⁴ "When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have more than enough food, but I'm starving to death! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. ²¹ Then his son said, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet!

²³ Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting ²⁴ because this son of mine was

dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!
And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷ The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’

²⁸ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. ²⁹ He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ ³¹ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.’”

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)*

* PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

*O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your
command you drive away from our bodies all sick-
ness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness
with those we lift today, that their weaknesses may be
banished and their strength restored; and that with
health being renewed, all may bless your holy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

* PRAYER FOR CLERGY and PEOPLE

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of your grace: and, that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

* FOR FRUITFUL SEASONS

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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, on Pentecost Day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ 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**

“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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