

Wednesday, May 5, 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.***

* **CANTICLE OF THE RESURRECTION**

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. * OSL

* **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: Wisdom 13:1-9** CEB

All humans who don't know God are empty-headed by nature. In spite of the good things that can be seen, they were somehow unable to know the one who truly is. Though they were fascinated by what he had made, they were unable to recognize the maker of everything.
² Instead, they thought that all these things—fire or wind or quickly moving air or a constellation of stars or rippling water or the sky's bright lights that govern the world—were all gods.
³ They should have known that all these things—which they took to be gods and delighted in—were much less beautiful than the one who rules them all. The creator of beauty itself created them. ⁴ Those who fear the power and might of created things should know how much more

powerful than these things is the one who fashioned them. ⁵ These people could have perceived something of the one who created all things as they thought about the power and beauty of the things that were created. ⁶ It is for this reason that they're not without guilt.

Yet perhaps we shouldn't blame them too much. They may have gone astray while they were looking for God, wanting to find him. ⁷ They spend a lot of time exploring his works. Something about their appearance leads them to wonder, for the things that they see are indeed wonderful. ⁸ Even so, these persons aren't excused. ⁹ After all, if they were indeed able to know so much that they could speculate about space and time, how is it that they weren't able to discover the ruler of space and time more quickly?

Holy wisdom, holy word.
Thanks be to God!

* **PSALM 72** NRSV

***Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.***

¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.
² May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice.
³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
⁵ May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
⁸ May he have dominion from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
⁹ May his foes bow down before him,
and his enemies lick the dust.
¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute,
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts.

¹¹ May all kings fall down before him,
all nations give him service.
¹² For he delivers the needy when they call,
the poor and those who have no helper.
¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life;
and precious is their blood in his sight.
¹⁵ Long may he live!
May gold of Sheba be given to him.
May prayer be made for him continually,
and blessings invoked for him all day long.
¹⁶ May there be abundance of grain in the land;
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;
may its fruit be like Lebanon;
and may people blossom in the cities
like the grass of the field.
¹⁷ May his name endure forever,
his fame continue as long as the sun.
May all nations be blessed in him;
may they pronounce him happy.
¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.

²⁰ The prayers of David son of Jesse are ended.

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

***Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** Luke 8:16-25 CEB

¹⁶ “No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand so that those who enter can see the light.

¹⁷ Nothing is hidden that won’t be exposed. Nor is anything concealed that won’t be made known and brought to the light. ¹⁸ Therefore, listen carefully. Those who have will receive more, but as for those who don’t have, even what they seem to have will be taken away from them.”

¹⁹ Jesus’ mother and brothers came to him but were unable to reach him because of the crowd. ²⁰ Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.”

²¹ He replied, “My mother and brothers are those who listen to God’s word and do it.”

²² One day Jesus and his disciples boarded a boat. He said to them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.” So they set sail.

²³ While they were sailing, he fell asleep. Gale-force winds swept down on the lake. The boat was filling up with water and they were in danger. ²⁴ So they went and woke Jesus, shouting, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!” But he got up and gave orders to the wind and the violent waves. The storm died down and it was calm.

²⁵ He said to his disciples, “Where is your faith?”

Filled with awe and wonder, they said to each other, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey 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 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:** Olof Gustav Hedström

Hedström was an innovative pastor who ministered to the needs of Swedish immigrants to the United States during the nineteenth century. He served as pastor of the Bethel Society, a unique Methodist enterprise whose 'building' was a ship floating in New York Harbor.

Olof Hedström was born in Kalmer, Sweden in 1803. He immigrated to the United States unwittingly when, at age 22, he had attempted to travel to South America as a sailor in search of adventure. He made New

York, but his ship's crew was disbanded there. Not having the money to go further, he found employment in a clothing establishment as a foreman and married an American woman.

He converted to Methodism in 1835 and joined the New York Conference on trial, serving in English congregations for ten years. Hedström's ministry attracted Methodist lay person, Peter Bergner, who was planning to develop a ministry to Scandinavian immigrants to the United States. Bergner and other Swedish Methodists acquired a two-masted ship named the Henry Leeds, renamed the vessel the John Wesley, and began the Bethel Society. The ship, bound to a pier, became a chapel for the society's work.

* 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: Olof Gustav Hedström**

Strong Word of God, by whom the world was created, in whom the world is redeemed, always send forth heralds like Olof Gustav Hedström, to bear the good news, that your saving way may be made known in every place and time, in every land and to every people, for your sake and for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

* For All the Saints

* PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness 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 AGRICULTURE

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather;

and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* PRAYERS FOR THE FUTURE OF THE HUMAN RACE

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; 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.**

* **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**

“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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