

Friday, July 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 First Song of Isaiah*

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
***For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.***
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
***Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great
things, and this is known in all the world.***
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 12:2-6

* **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

***Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy
thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which
no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no
unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us
also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you,
diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a
faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT.)

* **WORD: 1 Samuel 13:19-14:15** CEV

¹⁹ The Philistines would not allow any Israelites to learn how to make iron tools. “If we allowed that,” they said, “those worthless Israelites would make swords and spears.”

²⁰⁻²¹ Whenever the Israelites wanted to get an iron point put on a cattle prod, they had to go to the Philistines. Even if they wanted to sharpen plow-blades, picks, axes, sickles, and pitchforks they still had to go to them. And the Philistines charged high prices. ²² So, whenever the Israelite soldiers had to go into battle, none of them had a sword or a spear except Saul and his son Jonathan. ²³ The Philistines moved their camp to the pass at Michmash,

¹⁴ ¹⁻³ and Saul was in Geba with his six hundred men. Saul’s own tent was set up under a fruit tree by the threshing place at the edge of town. Ahijah was serving as priest, and one of his jobs was to get answers from the LORD for Saul. Ahijah’s father was Ahitub, and his father’s brother was Ichabod. Ahijah’s grandfather was Phinehas, and his great-grandfather Eli had been the LORD’s priest at Shiloh.

One day, Jonathan told the soldier who carried his weapons that he wanted to attack the Philistine camp on the other side of the valley. So they slipped out of the Israelite camp

without anyone knowing it. Jonathan didn’t even tell his father he was leaving.

⁴⁻⁵ Jonathan decided to get to the Philistine camp by going through the pass that led between Shiny Cliff and Michmash to the north and Thornbush Cliff and Geba to the south.

⁶ Jonathan and the soldier who carried his weapons talked as they went toward the Philistine camp. “It’s just the two of us against all those godless men,” Jonathan said. “But the LORD can help a few soldiers win a battle just as easily as he can help a whole army. Maybe the LORD will help us win this battle.”

⁷ “Do whatever you want,” the soldier answered. “I’ll be right there with you.”

⁸ “This is what we will do,” Jonathan said. “We will go across and let them see us. ⁹ If they agree to come down the hill and fight where we are, then we won’t climb up to their camp. ¹⁰ But we will go if they tell us to come up the hill and fight. That will mean the LORD is going to help us win.”

¹¹⁻¹² Jonathan and the soldier stood at the bottom of the hill where the Philistines could see them. The Philistines said, “Look! Those worthless Israelites have crawled out of the holes where they’ve been hiding.” Then they yelled down to Jonathan and the soldier, “Come up here, and we will teach you a thing or two!”

Jonathan turned to the soldier and said, "Follow me! The LORD is going to let us win."

¹³ Jonathan crawled up the hillside with the soldier right behind him. When they got to the top, Jonathan killed the Philistines who attacked from the front, and the soldier killed those who attacked from behind. ¹⁴ Before they had gone a hundred feet, they had killed about twenty Philistines.

¹⁵ The whole Philistine army panicked—those in camp, those on guard duty, those in the fields, and those on raiding patrols. All of them were afraid and confused. Then God sent an earthquake, and the ground began to tremble.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 140](#) NRSV

***O LORD, my Lord, my strong deliverer,
you have covered my head in the day of battle.***

¹ Deliver me, O LORD, from evildoers;
protect me from those who are violent,

² who plan evil things in their minds
and stir up wars continually.

³ They make their tongue sharp as a snake's,
and under their lips is the venom of vipers. *Selah*

⁴ Guard me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked;
protect me from the violent
who have planned my downfall.

⁵ The arrogant have hidden a trap for me,
and with cords they have spread a net,
along the road they have set snares for me. *Selah*

⁶ I say to the LORD, "You are my God;
give ear, O LORD, to the voice of my supplications."

⁷ O LORD, my Lord, my strong deliverer,
you have covered my head in the day of battle.

⁸ Do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked;
do not further their evil plot. *Selah*

⁹ Those who surround me lift up their heads;
let the mischief of their lips overwhelm them!

¹⁰ Let burning coals fall on them!
Let them be flung into pits, no more to rise!

¹¹ Do not let the slanderer be established in the land;
let evil speedily hunt down the violent!

¹² I know that the LORD maintains the cause of the needy,
and executes justice for the poor.

¹³ Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name;
the upright shall live in your presence.

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

***O LORD, my Lord, my strong deliverer,
you have covered my head in the day of battle.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD: Luke 23:26-31** CEV

²⁶ As Jesus was being led away, some soldiers grabbed hold of a man from Cyrene named Simon. He was coming in from the fields, but they put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

²⁷ A large crowd was following Jesus, and in the crowd a lot of women were crying and weeping for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned to the women and said:

Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me! Cry for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ Someday people will say, "Women who never had children are really fortunate!" ³⁰ At that time everyone will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" They will say to the hills, "Hide us!" ³¹ If this can happen when the wood is green, what do you think will happen when it is dry?

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*. LUKE 1:68-79

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: Anna Howard Shaw**

“... influenced by lofty motives, stimulated by the wail of humanity and the glory of God, woman may go forth and enter into any field of usefulness that opens up before her.” [cxcvj]

Anna Howard Shaw's words to the 1888 International Council of Women summarize her own life. Though born in England, Anna Howard grew up on the Michigan frontier. Her father returned to Massachusetts with his older sons, leaving an overwhelmed wife, three daughters, and a small son to cope. She found strength at an early age. She also heard the call to preach. The forest trees were her first congregation. Knowing she must be educated, she read voraciously, attended school whenever possible, and became a teacher. Learning of her call, the Methodists agreed to test her skills. In 1870 she preached 36 times. In

1871 the Conference gave her a license though her family and community opposed the idea.

* 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: Anna Howard Shaw**

God our Creator and Redeemer, anoint from among your people zealous and faithful preachers like Anna Howard Shaw and give us ears to hear the gospel that your image may be fully restored in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* For All the Saints

* FOR A SICK PERSON

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly ask you to recognize, visit, and relieve your sick servants for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; preserve them from the temptations of the enemy; and give them

patience under their affliction. In your good time, restore them to health, and enable them to live the remainder of their lives in your awe, and to your glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* PRAYERS FOR TOWNS and RURAL AREAS

Lord Christ, when you came among us, you proclaimed the kingdom of God in villages, towns, and lonely places: Grant that your presence and power may be known throughout this land. Have mercy upon all of us who live and work in rural areas especially here in Atlantic County; and grant that all the people of our nation may give thanks to you for food and drink and all other bodily necessities of life, respect those who labor to produce them, and honor the land and the water from which these good things come. All this we ask in your holy Name. **Amen.**

* FOR THE HARVEST OF LANDS AND WATERS

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with abundance: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your

loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through 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 FOR FRIDAY**

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep

peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

* **COLLECT OF THE WEEK**

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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**

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with
you now and always. **Amen**

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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