

Saturday, July 3, 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 OF WISDOM**

Wisdom has built her house, setting up seven pillars.
She has prepared the food and wine and set her table.

***She has sent out her servants
to call out from the Heights above the city:***

“Let those who want enlightenment come.
Come, taste my bread and drink my spiced wine.

***Give up your foolishness and live,
And walk the path of understanding.”***

If you are wise, your reward is wisdom;
If you teach the just, they grow in understanding.

***Wisdom begins with reverence for God,
and knowledge of the holy one is insight.***

* OSL

* **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

***New every morning is your love, great God of light,
and all day long you are working for good in the
world. Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live
peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day
to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.***

* **1st READING: 1 Samuel 14:16-30** CEV

¹⁶ Saul's lookouts at Geba saw that the Philistine army was running in every direction, like melted wax. ¹⁷ Saul told his officers, "Call the roll and find out who left our camp." When they had finished, they found out that Jonathan and the soldier who carried his weapons were missing.

¹⁸ At that time, Ahijah was serving as priest for the army of Israel, and Saul told him, "Come over here! Let's ask God what we should do." ¹⁹ Just as Saul finished saying this, he could see that the Philistine army camp was getting more and more confused, and he said, "Ahijah, never mind!"

²⁰ Saul quickly called his army together, then led them to the Philistine camp. By this time the Philistines were so confused that they were killing each other.

²¹ There were also some hired soldiers in the Philistine camp, who now switched to Israel's side and fought for Saul and Jonathan.

²² Many Israelites had been hiding in the hill country of Ephraim. And when they heard that the Philistines were running away, they came out of hiding and joined in chasing the Philistines.

²³⁻²⁴ So the LORD helped Israel win the battle that day.

Saul had earlier told his soldiers, "I want to get even with those Philistines by sunset. If any of you eat before then, you will be under a curse!" So he made them swear not to eat.

By the time the fighting moved past Beth-Aven, the Israelite troops were weak from hunger. ²⁵⁻²⁶ The army and the people who lived nearby had gone into a forest, and they came to a place where honey was dripping on the ground. But no one ate any of it, because they were afraid of being put under the curse.

²⁷ Jonathan did not know about Saul's warning to the soldiers. So he dipped the end of his walking stick in the honey and ate some with his fingers. He felt stronger and more alert. ²⁸ Then a soldier told him, "Your father swore that anyone who ate food today would be put under a curse, and we agreed not to eat. That's why we're so weak."

²⁹ Jonathan said, "My father has caused you a lot of trouble. Look at me! I had only a little of this honey, but already I feel strong and alert. ³⁰ I wish you had eaten some of the food the Philistines left behind. We would have been able to kill a lot more of them."

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 144](#) NRSV

***Stretch out your hand from on high;
set me free and rescue me from the mighty waters.***

Blessed be the LORD, my rock,
who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;

² my rock and my fortress,
my stronghold and my deliverer,

my shield, in whom I take refuge,
who subdues the peoples under me.

³ O LORD, what are human beings that you regard them,
or mortals that you think of them?

⁴ They are like a breath;
their days are like a passing shadow.

⁵ Bow your heavens, O LORD, and come down;
touch the mountains so that they smoke.

⁶ Make the lightning flash and scatter them;

send out your arrows and rout them.

⁷ Stretch out your hand from on high;
set me free and rescue me from the mighty waters,
from the hand of aliens,

⁸ whose mouths speak lies,
and whose right hands are false.

⁹ I will sing a new song to you, O God;
upon a ten-stringed harp I will play to you,

¹⁰ the one who gives victory to kings,
who rescues his servant David.

¹¹ Rescue me from the cruel sword,
and deliver me from the hand of aliens,
whose mouths speak lies,
and whose right hands are false.

¹² May our sons in their youth
be like plants full grown,
our daughters like corner pillars,
cut for the building of a palace.

¹³ May our barns be filled,
with produce of every kind;
may our sheep increase by thousands,

by tens of thousands in our fields,
¹⁴ and may our cattle be heavy with young.

May there be no breach in the walls, no exile,
and no cry of distress in our streets.

¹⁵ Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall;
happy are the people whose God is the LORD.

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

***Stretch out your hand from on high;
set me free and rescue me from the mighty waters.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD:** **Luke 23:32-43** CEV

³² Two criminals were led out to be put to death with Jesus. ³³ When the soldiers came to the place called “The Skull,” they nailed Jesus to a cross. They also nailed the two criminals to crosses, one on each side of Jesus.

³⁴⁻³⁵ Jesus said, “Father, forgive these people! They don’t know what they’re doing.”

While the crowd stood there watching Jesus, the soldiers gambled for his clothes. The leaders insulted him by

saying, “He saved others. Now he should save himself, if he really is God’s chosen Messiah!”

³⁶ The soldiers made fun of Jesus and brought him some wine. ³⁷ They said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!”

³⁸ Above him was a sign that said, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying, “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal told the first one off, “Don’t you fear God? Aren’t you getting the same punishment as this man? ⁴¹ We got what was coming to us, but he didn’t do anything wrong.” ⁴² Then he said to Jesus, “Remember me when you come into power!”

⁴³ Jesus replied, “I promise that today you will be with me in paradise.”

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*.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **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)*

* PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

***Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort
and relieve your sick servants, and give your power
of healing to those who minister to their needs, that
those for whom our prayers are offered may be
strengthened in their weakness and have confidence
in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for 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.***

* FOR RAIN

O God, heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ
has promised to all those who seek your kingdom and its
righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life:
Send us, we pray, in this time of need in the western part
of our country, such moderate rain and showers, that we
may receive the fruits of the earth, to our comfort and to
thy honor; through 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 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**

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand. **Amen.**

(TRADITIONAL GAELIC PRAYER)

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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