

Wednesday, June 23, 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: 1 Samuel 7:2-17** CEV

² During this time everyone in Israel was very sad and begged the LORD for help.

³ One day, Samuel told all the people of Israel, “If you really want to turn back to the LORD, then prove it. Get rid of your foreign idols, including the ones of the goddess Astarte. Turn to the LORD with all your heart and worship only him. Then he will rescue you from the Philistines.”

⁴ The people got rid of their idols of Baal and Astarte and began worshiping only the LORD.

⁵ Then Samuel said, “Tell everyone in Israel to meet together at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.”

⁶ The Israelites met together at Mizpah with Samuel as their leader. They drew water from the well and poured it

out as an offering to the LORD. On that same day they went without eating to show their sorrow, and they confessed they had been unfaithful to the LORD.

⁷ When the Philistine rulers found out about the meeting at Mizpah, they sent an army there to attack the people of Israel.

The Israelites were afraid when they heard that the Philistines were coming. ⁸ “Don’t stop praying!” they told Samuel. “Ask the LORD our God to rescue us.”

⁹⁻¹⁰ Samuel begged the LORD to rescue Israel, then he sacrificed a young lamb to the LORD. Samuel had not even finished offering the sacrifice when the Philistines started to attack. But the LORD answered his prayer and made thunder crash all around them. The Philistines panicked and ran away. ¹¹ The men of Israel left Mizpah and went after them as far as the hillside below Beth-Car, killing every enemy soldier they caught.

¹²⁻¹³ The Philistines were so badly beaten that it was quite a while before they attacked Israel again. After the battle, Samuel set up a monument between Mizpah and the rocky cliffs. He named it “Help Monument” to remind Israel how much the LORD had helped them.

For as long as Samuel lived, the LORD helped Israel fight the Philistines. ¹⁴ The Israelites were even able to recapture their towns and territory between Ekron and Gath.

Israel was also at peace with the Amorites.

¹⁵ Samuel was a leader in Israel all his life. ¹⁶ Every year he would go around to the towns of Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah where he served as judge for the people. ¹⁷ Then he would go back to his home in Ramah and do the same thing there. He also had an altar built for the LORD at Ramah.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* **PSALM 101** NRSV

¹ I will sing of loyalty and of justice;
to you, O LORD, I will sing.

² I will study the way that is blameless.
When shall I attain it?

I will walk with integrity of heart
within my house;

³ I will not set before my eyes
anything that is base.

I hate the work of those who fall away;
it shall not cling to me.

⁴ Perverseness of heart shall be far from me;
I will know nothing of evil.

⁵ One who secretly slanders a neighbor
I will destroy.

A haughty look and an arrogant heart
I will not tolerate.

⁶ I will look with favor on the faithful in the land,
so that they may live with me;
whoever walks in the way that is blameless
shall minister to me.

⁷ No one who practices deceit
shall remain in my house;
no one who utters lies
shall continue in my presence.

⁸ Morning by morning I will destroy
all the wicked in the land,
cutting off all evildoers
from the city of the LORD.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL: Luke 22:14-23** CEV

¹⁴ When the time came for Jesus and the apostles to eat,
¹⁵ he said to them, "I have very much wanted to eat this
Passover meal with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ I tell you that I
will not eat another Passover meal until it is finally eaten
in God's kingdom."

¹⁷ Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and gave thanks
to God. Then he told the apostles, "Take this wine and
share it with each other. ¹⁸ I tell you that I will not drink any
more wine until God's kingdom comes."

¹⁹ Jesus took some bread in his hands and gave thanks
for it. He broke the bread and handed it to his apostles.
Then he said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Eat
this as a way of remembering me!"

²⁰ After the meal he took another cup of wine in his hands.
Then he said, "This is my blood. It is poured out for you,
and with it God makes his new agreement. ²¹ The one
who will betray me is here at the table with me! ²² The Son
of Man will die in the way that has been decided for him,
but it will be terrible for the one who betrays him!"

²³ Then the apostles started arguing about who would
ever do such a thing.

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*)

* 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.**

* 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.**

* A COLLECT FOR THE RENEWAL OF LIFE

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night

comes, rejoice to give you thanks; 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

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; 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**

“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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