

Wednesday, June 30, 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]

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 1 Samuel 12:1-6,16-25** CEV

Samuel told the Israelites:

I have given you a king, just as you asked. <sup>2</sup> You have seen how I have led you ever since I was a young man. I'm already old. My hair is gray, and my own sons are grown. Now you must see how well your king will lead you.

<sup>3</sup> Let me ask this. Have I ever taken anyone's ox or donkey or forced you to give me anything? Have I ever hurt anyone or taken a bribe to give an unfair decision? Answer me so the LORD and his chosen king can hear you. And if I have done any of these things, I will give it all back.

<sup>4</sup> "No," the Israelites answered. "You've never cheated us in any way!"

<sup>5</sup> Samuel said, "The LORD and his chosen king are witnesses to what you have said."

"That's true," they replied.

<sup>6</sup> Then Samuel told them:

The LORD brought your ancestors out of Egypt and chose Moses and Aaron to be your leaders.

<sup>16</sup> Just stand here and watch the LORD show his mighty power. <sup>17</sup> Isn't this the dry season? I'm going to ask the LORD to send a thunderstorm. When you see it, you will realize how wrong you were to ask for a king.

<sup>18</sup> Samuel prayed, and that same day the LORD sent a thunderstorm. Everyone was afraid of the LORD and of Samuel. <sup>19</sup> They told Samuel, "Please, pray to the LORD your God for us! We don't want to die. We have sinned many times in the past, and we were very wrong to ask for a king."

<sup>20</sup> Samuel answered:

Even though what you did was wrong, you don't need to be afraid. But you must always follow the LORD and worship him with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> Don't worship idols!

They don't have any power, and they can't help you or save you when you're in trouble. <sup>22</sup> But the LORD has chosen you to be his own people. He will always take care of you so that everyone will know how great he is.

<sup>23</sup> I would be disobeying the LORD if I stopped praying for you! I will always teach you how to live right. <sup>24</sup> You also must obey the LORD—you must worship him with all your heart and remember the great things he has done for you.

<sup>25</sup> But if you and your king do evil, the LORD will wipe you out.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* **PSALM 119:145-176** NRSV

***Yet you are near, O LORD,***

***and all your commandments are true.***

<sup>145</sup> With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD.

I will keep your statutes.

<sup>146</sup> I cry to you; save me,

that I may observe your decrees.

<sup>147</sup> I rise before dawn and cry for help;

I put my hope in your words.

<sup>148</sup> My eyes are awake before each watch of the night,  
that I may meditate on your promise.

<sup>149</sup> In your steadfast love hear my voice;

O LORD, in your justice preserve my life.

<sup>150</sup> Those who persecute me with evil purpose draw near;  
they are far from your law.

<sup>151</sup> Yet you are near, O LORD,

and all your commandments are true.

<sup>152</sup> Long ago I learned from your decrees  
that you have established them forever.

***Yet you are near, O LORD,***

***and all your commandments are true.***

<sup>153</sup> Look on my misery and rescue me,  
for I do not forget your law.

<sup>154</sup> Plead my cause and redeem me;  
give me life according to your promise.

<sup>155</sup> Salvation is far from the wicked,  
for they do not seek your statutes.

<sup>156</sup> Great is your mercy, O LORD;  
give me life according to your justice.

<sup>157</sup> *Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,  
yet I do not swerve from your decrees.*

<sup>158</sup> *I look at the faithless with disgust,*

*because they do not keep your commands.*

<sup>159</sup> *Consider how I love your precepts;*

*preserve my life according to your steadfast love.*

<sup>160</sup> *The sum of your word is truth;*

*and every one of your righteous ordinances  
endures forever.*

<sup>161</sup> Princes persecute me without cause,  
but my heart stands in awe of your words.

<sup>162</sup> I rejoice at your word  
like one who finds great spoil.

<sup>163</sup> I hate and abhor falsehood,  
but I love your law.

<sup>164</sup> *Seven times a day I praise you  
for your righteous ordinances.*

<sup>165</sup> *Great peace have those who love your law;  
nothing can make them stumble.*

<sup>166</sup> *I hope for your salvation, O LORD,  
and I fulfill your commandments.*

<sup>167</sup> *My soul keeps your decrees;  
I love them exceedingly.*

<sup>168</sup> *I keep your precepts and decrees,  
for all my ways are before you.*

***My lips will pour forth praise,  
because you teach me your statutes.***

<sup>169</sup> Let my cry come before you, O LORD;  
give me understanding according to your word.

<sup>170</sup> Let my supplication come before you;  
deliver me according to your promise.

<sup>171</sup> My lips will pour forth praise,  
because you teach me your statutes.

<sup>172</sup> My tongue will sing of your promise,  
for all your commandments are right.

<sup>173</sup> Let your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.

<sup>174</sup> I long for your salvation, O LORD,  
and your law is my delight.

<sup>175</sup> Let me live that I may praise you,  
and let your ordinances help me.

<sup>176</sup> I have gone astray like a lost sheep;  
seek out your servant,  
for I do not forget your commandments.

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

***My lips will pour forth praise,  
because you teach me your statutes.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Luke 23:1-12** CEV

Everyone in the council got up and led Jesus off to Pilate.

<sup>2</sup> They started accusing him and said, “We caught this man trying to get our people to riot and to stop paying taxes to the Emperor. He also claims that he is the Messiah, our king.”

<sup>3</sup> Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Those are your words,” Jesus answered.

<sup>4</sup> Pilate told the chief priests and the crowd, “I don’t find him guilty of anything.”

<sup>5</sup> But they all kept on saying, “He has been teaching and causing trouble all over Judea. He started in Galilee and has now come all the way here.”

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked, “Is this man from Galilee?” <sup>7</sup> After Pilate learned that Jesus came from the region ruled by Herod, he sent him to Herod, who was in Jerusalem at that time.

<sup>8</sup> For a long time Herod had wanted to see Jesus and was very happy because he finally had this chance. He had heard many things about Jesus and hoped to see him work a miracle.

<sup>9</sup> Herod asked him a lot of questions, but Jesus did not answer. <sup>10</sup> Then the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses stood up and accused him of all kinds of bad things.

<sup>11</sup> Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus and insulted him. They put a fine robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That same day Herod and Pilate became friends, even though they had been enemies before this.

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.**

\* PRAYERS FOR THE GOOD USE OF LEISURE

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* PRAYER FOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S CREATION

***Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvelous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfill our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of 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**

“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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