

Monday, July 19, 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.

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**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 THANKSGIVING**

It is good to give thanks to the *LORD*,
to sing praises to your name, O Most *High*;
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithful-ness by night,**
to the music of the lute and the *harp*,
to the melody of the lyre.

**For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are ver-y deep!

Psalm 92:1-5

* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;

And also with you.

Let us pray:

**Oh God, The Holy Spirit,
come to us, and among us;
come as the wind, and cleanse us;
come as the fire, and burn;
come as the dew, and refresh;
convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives
to our great good and to your greater glory;
and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen**

* **WORD: 1 Samuel 24:1-22** NRSV

When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the wilderness of En-gedi." ² Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to

look for David and his men in the direction of the Rocks of the Wild Goats. ³ He came to the sheepfolds beside the road, where there was a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. ⁴ The men of David said to him, “Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.’” Then David went and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul’s cloak. ⁵ Afterward David was stricken to the heart because he had cut off a corner of Saul’s cloak. ⁶ He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD’s anointed, to raise my hand against him; for he is the LORD’s anointed.” ⁷ So David scolded his men severely and did not permit them to attack Saul. Then Saul got up and left the cave, and went on his way.

⁸ Afterwards David also rose up and went out of the cave and called after Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground, and did obeisance. ⁹ David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of those who say, ‘David seeks to do you harm’?”

¹⁰ This very day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you into my hand in the cave; and some urged me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, ‘I will not raise my hand against my lord; for he is the LORD’s anointed.’ ¹¹ See, my father, see the

corner of your cloak in my hand; for by the fact that I cut off the corner of your cloak, and did not kill you, you may know for certain that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you are hunting me to take my life. ¹² May the LORD judge between me and you! May the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you. ¹³ As the ancient proverb says, ‘Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness’; but my hand shall not be against you. ¹⁴ Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom do you pursue? A dead dog? A single flea? ¹⁵ May the LORD therefore be judge, and give sentence between me and you. May he see to it, and plead my cause, and vindicate me against you.”

¹⁶ When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” Saul lifted up his voice and wept. ¹⁷ He said to David, “You are more righteous than I; for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. ¹⁸ Today you have explained how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. ¹⁹ For who has ever found an enemy, and sent the enemy safely away? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. ²⁰ Now I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. ²¹ Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my

descendants after me, and that you will not wipe out my name from my father's house." ²² So David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home; but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* **Psalm 41** NRSV

O LORD, be gracious to me and heal me;

O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up.

Happy are those who consider the poor;
the LORD delivers them in the day of trouble.

² The LORD protects them and keeps them alive;
they are called happy in the land.

You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.

³ The LORD sustains them on their sickbed;
in their illness you heal all their infirmities.

⁴ As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me;
heal me, for I have sinned against you."

⁵ My enemies wonder in malice
when I will die, and my name perish.

⁶ And when they come to see me, they utter empty words,
while their hearts gather mischief;

when they go out, they tell it abroad.

⁷ All who hate me whisper together about me;
they imagine the worst for me.

⁸ They think that a deadly thing has fastened on me,
that I will not rise again from where I lie.

⁹ Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted,
who ate of my bread, has lifted the heel against me.

¹⁰ But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,
and raise me up, that I may repay them.

¹¹ By this I know that you are pleased with me;
because my enemy has not triumphed over me.

¹² But you have upheld me because of my integrity,
and set me in your presence forever.

¹³ Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

Amen and Amen.

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

O LORD, be gracious to me and heal me;

O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **WORD: Mark 4:1-20** NRSV

Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ² He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³ “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” ⁹ And he said, “Let anyone with ears to hear listen!”

¹⁰ When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹ And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; ¹² in order that

‘they may indeed look, but not perceive,
and may indeed listen, but not understand;
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’”

¹³ And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴ The sower sows the word. ¹⁵ These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶ And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸ And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹ but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²⁰ And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

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

* **COMMEMORATION: Macrina the Younger**

Macrina is called Macrina the Younger to distinguish her from her grandmother. She was betrothed at the age of twelve, after the custom of the day, but when her fiance died, she determined to devote her life to prayer and contemplation and to works of charity. After the death of her father, she and her mother formed a community of women who shared her goals. She often brought poor and hungry women home to be fed, clothed, nursed, or otherwise taken care of, and many eventually joined the community, as did many women of means.

After the death of their parents, Macrina was chiefly responsible for the upbringing of her ten younger brothers. When they were disposed to be conceited about their intellectual accomplishments, she deflated them with affectionate but pointed jibes. Her example encouraged some of them to pursue the monastic ideal, and to found monastic communities for men. (Dios founded one of the

most celebrated monasteries in Constantinople.) Three of them (Basil, Gregory, Peter) became bishops, and all of them were leading contenders for the faith of Nicea against the Arians.

[*by James Kiefer*](#)

* **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,
and also with you.

Let us pray: *(stop and pray for those on your heart today)*

* **COLLECT: Macrina the Younger**

Merciful God, you called your servant Macrina to reveal in her life and her teaching the riches of your grace and truth: May we, following her example, seek after your wisdom and live according to her way; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

* **PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with those deep in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not

be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* FOR JOY IN GOD'S CREATION

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

* PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by your gracious and ready help; 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, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

* 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 always. **Amen**

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