

Tuesday, July 20, 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 PRAISE**

Come, let us sing to the Ho-ly One; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal-vation.  
***Let us come before God's presence  
with thanks-giving,\*  
and raise a loud shout with psalms.***

For you, O God, are a great God,\*  
you are great a-bove all gods.

***In your hand are the caverns of the earth,\*  
and the heights of the hills are yours also.***

The sea is yours, for you made it,\*  
and your hands have molded the dry land.  
***Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,\*  
and kneel before God, our Maker.***

For you are our God,  
and we are the people of your pasture  
and the sheep of your hand.\*  
***Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!***

PSALM 95:1-7

**\* MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:  
***Almighty and everlasting God,  
in whom we live and move and have our being,  
you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are  
restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such***

***piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see life clearly and, in your service, find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

St. Augustine

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 1 Samuel 25:1-22** NRSV

Now Samuel died; and all Israel assembled and mourned for him. They buried him at his home in Ramah.

Then David got up and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

<sup>2</sup> There was a man in Maon, whose property was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. <sup>3</sup> Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was clever and beautiful, but the man was surly and mean; he was a Calebite. <sup>4</sup> David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. <sup>5</sup> So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name. <sup>6</sup> Thus you shall salute him: 'Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and

peace be to all that you have. <sup>7</sup> I hear that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing, all the time they were in Carmel. <sup>8</sup> Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your sight; for we have come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

<sup>9</sup> When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David; and then they waited. <sup>10</sup> But Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are breaking away from their masters. <sup>11</sup> Shall I take my bread and my water and the meat that I have butchered for my shearers, and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" <sup>12</sup> So David's young men turned away, and came back and told him all this. <sup>13</sup> David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every one of them strapped on his sword; David also strapped on his sword; and about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

<sup>14</sup> But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute

our master; and he shouted insults at them. <sup>15</sup> Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we never missed anything when we were in the fields, as long as we were with them; <sup>16</sup> they were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. <sup>17</sup> Now therefore know this and consider what you should do; for evil has been decided against our master and against all his house; he is so ill-natured that no one can speak to him.”

<sup>18</sup> Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves, two skins of wine, five sheep ready dressed, five measures of parched grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. She loaded them on donkeys <sup>19</sup> and said to her young men, “Go on ahead of me; I am coming after you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal. <sup>20</sup> As she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them. <sup>21</sup> Now David had said, “Surely it was in vain that I protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; but he has returned me evil for good. <sup>22</sup> God do so to David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him.”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* [Psalm 45 \(A wedding song\)](#) NRSV

***You love righteousness and hate wickedness.***

***Therefore God,***

***has anointed you with the oil of gladness.***

- <sup>1</sup> My heart overflows with a goodly theme;  
I address my verses to the king;  
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.
- <sup>2</sup> You are the most handsome of men;  
grace is poured upon your lips;  
therefore God has blessed you forever.
- <sup>3</sup> Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,  
in your glory and majesty.
- <sup>4</sup> In your majesty ride on victoriously  
for the cause of truth and to defend the right;  
let your right hand teach you dread deeds.
- <sup>5</sup> Your arrows are sharp

in the heart of the king's enemies;  
the peoples fall under you.

<sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.

Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;

<sup>7</sup> you love righteousness and hate wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

<sup>8</sup> your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;

<sup>9</sup> daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;  
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

<sup>10</sup> Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;  
forget your people and your father's house,

<sup>11</sup> and the king will desire your beauty.

Since he is your lord, bow to him;

<sup>12</sup> the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,  
the richest of the people <sup>13</sup> with all kinds of wealth.

The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;

<sup>14</sup> in many-colored robes she is led to the king;  
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.

<sup>15</sup> With joy and gladness they are led along  
as they enter the palace of the king.

<sup>16</sup> In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;  
you will make them princes in all the earth.

<sup>17</sup> I will cause your name to be celebrated in all  
generations;

therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever.

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

***You love righteousness and hate wickedness.***

***Therefore God,***

***has anointed you with the oil of gladness.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **2<sup>nd</sup> READING:** **Mark 4:21-34** NRSV

<sup>21</sup> He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? <sup>22</sup> For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light.

<sup>23</sup> Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" <sup>24</sup> And he said to

them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. <sup>25</sup> For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away."

<sup>26</sup> He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup> He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

<sup>33</sup> With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup> he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

\* **COMMEMORATION: Belle Harris Bennett (1922)**

One of the foremost lay women in the Methodist Church, South, Belle Harris Bennett was born in 1852, the seventh of eight children. She was well educated, and because she was financially supported by her family she was able to work without salary, going where she saw a need.

. . . . . She took her religious life seriously, participating in prayer, Bible study, hymn singing, and devotions. A gifted organizer, her concern for the proper training of missionaries led her to raise money for what became in 1892 the Scarritt Bible and Training School, a

7/20/21

women's missionary school in Kansas City, Missouri (it moved to Nashville in 1924). Her later missionary work included the foundation of new mission fields and a women's college in Rio de Janeiro. Her leadership and interest in the needs of cities and the education of women spurred the founding of almost 50 homes for young working women.

\* 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: Belle Harris Bennett**

Almighty God, whose will it is to be glorified in your saints, and who raised up your servant Belle Harris Bennett to be a light in the world; Shine, we pray, in our hearts, that we also in our generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
***Amen.***

\* **PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS**

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with those we lift today, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that with health being renewed, all may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* **FOR GUIDANCE**

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* **A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING**

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea, ***we thank you, Lord.***

7/20/21

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,  
revealing the image of Christ, ***we thank you, Lord.***

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and  
our friends, ***we thank you, Lord.***

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,  
***we thank you, Lord.***

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and  
play, ***we thank you, Lord.***

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in  
suffering and faithful in adversity, ***we thank you, Lord.***

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,  
***we thank you, Lord.***

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,  
***we thank you, Lord.***

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and  
promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord; To him be  
praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. ***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.***



\* 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 grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
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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