

Wednesday, July 21, 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.***

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 1 Samuel 25:23-44** NRSV

<sup>23</sup> When Abigail saw David, she hurried and alighted from the donkey, and fell before David on her face, bowing to the ground. <sup>24</sup> She fell at his feet and said, “Upon me alone, my lord, be the guilt; please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. <sup>25</sup> My lord, do not take seriously this ill-natured fellow, Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I, your servant, did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.

<sup>26</sup> “Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, since the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from taking vengeance with your own hand, now let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be like Nabal. <sup>27</sup> And now let this present that your

servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. <sup>28</sup> Please forgive the trespass of your servant; for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD; and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. <sup>29</sup> If anyone should rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living under the care of the LORD your God; but the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. <sup>30</sup> When the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you prince over Israel, <sup>31</sup> my lord shall have no cause of grief, or pangs of conscience, for having shed blood without cause or for having saved himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant.”

<sup>32</sup> David said to Abigail, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today! <sup>33</sup> Blessed be your good sense, and blessed be you, who have kept me today from bloodguilt and from avenging myself by my own hand! <sup>34</sup> For as surely as the LORD the God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there would not have been left to Nabal so much as one male.”

<sup>35</sup> Then David received from her hand what she had brought him; he said to her, “Go up to your house in peace; see, I have heeded your voice, and I have granted your petition.”

<sup>36</sup> Abigail came to Nabal; he was holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. Nabal’s heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; so she told him nothing at all until the morning light. <sup>37</sup> In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him; he became like a stone.

<sup>38</sup> About ten days later the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

<sup>39</sup> When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Blessed be the LORD who has judged the case of Nabal’s insult to me, and has kept back his servant from evil; the LORD has returned the evildoing of Nabal upon his own head.” Then David sent and wooed Abigail, to make her his wife. <sup>40</sup> When David’s servants came to Abigail at Carmel, they said to her, “David has sent us to you to take you to him as his wife.” <sup>41</sup> She rose and bowed down, with her face to the ground, and said, “Your servant is a slave to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.” <sup>42</sup> Abigail got up hurriedly and rode away on a donkey; her five maids

attended her. She went after the messengers of David and became his wife.

<sup>43</sup> David also married Ahinoam of Jezreel; both of them became his wives. <sup>44</sup> Saul had given his daughter Michal, David’s wife, to Palti son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **PSALM 119:49-72** CEB

***The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes.***

<sup>49</sup> Remember your word to your servant,  
in which you have made me hope.

<sup>50</sup> This is my comfort in my distress,  
that your promise gives me life.

<sup>51</sup> The arrogant utterly deride me,  
but I do not turn away from your law.

<sup>52</sup> When I think of your ordinances from of old,  
I take comfort, O LORD.

<sup>53</sup> Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,  
those who forsake your law.

<sup>54</sup> Your statutes have been my songs  
wherever I make my home.

<sup>55</sup> I remember your name in the night, O LORD,  
and keep your law.

<sup>56</sup> This blessing has fallen to me,  
for I have kept your precepts.

***The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes.***

<sup>57</sup> The LORD is my portion;  
I promise to keep your words.

<sup>58</sup> I implore your favor with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to your promise.

<sup>59</sup> When I think of your ways,  
I turn my feet to your decrees;

<sup>60</sup> I hurry and do not delay  
to keep your commandments.

<sup>61</sup> Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,  
I do not forget your law.

<sup>62</sup> At midnight I rise to praise you,  
because of your righteous ordinances.

<sup>63</sup> I am a companion of all who fear you,  
of those who keep your precepts.

***<sup>64</sup> The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes.***

<sup>65</sup> You have dealt well with your servant,  
O LORD, according to your word.

<sup>66</sup> Teach me good judgment and knowledge,  
for I believe in your commandments.

<sup>67</sup> Before I was humbled I went astray,  
but now I keep your word.

<sup>68</sup> You are good and do good;  
teach me your statutes.

<sup>69</sup> The arrogant smear me with lies,  
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.

<sup>70</sup> Their hearts are fat and gross,  
but I delight in your law.

<sup>71</sup> It is good for me that I was humbled,  
so that I might learn your statutes.

<sup>72</sup> The law of your mouth is better to me  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

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

***The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Mark 4:35-41** NRSV

<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup> But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup> He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

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 OUR COUNTRY

***Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly pray to you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\* FOR ALL PLACES AND PREDICAMENTS

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly, earnestly request of you for people in all places and all predicaments; that you would be gracious to make your ways known to them, your saving health to all nations.

More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith - in

unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.

Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate, that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their many necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a blessed outcome from all their afflictions. And this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

*Book of Common Prayer – adapted DEN*

\* **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 forever. **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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