

Wednesday, July 7, 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 16:1-13** CEV

<sup>1</sup> One day he said, “Samuel, I’ve rejected Saul, and I refuse to let him be king any longer. Stop feeling sad about him. Put some olive oil in a small container and go visit a man named Jesse, who lives in Bethlehem. I’ve chosen one of his sons to be my king.”

<sup>2</sup> Samuel answered, “If I do that, Saul will find out and have me killed.”

“Take a calf with you,” the LORD replied. “Tell everyone that you’ve come to offer it as a sacrifice to me, <sup>3</sup> then invite Jesse to the sacrifice. When I show you which one of his sons I have chosen, pour the olive oil on his head.”

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD told him and went to Bethlehem. The town leaders went to meet him, but they were terribly afraid and asked, “Is this a friendly visit?”

<sup>5</sup> “Yes, it is!” Samuel answered. “I’ve come to offer a sacrifice to the LORD. Get yourselves ready to take part in the sacrifice and come with me.” Samuel also invited Jesse and his sons to come to the sacrifice, and he got them ready to take part.

<sup>6</sup> When Jesse and his sons arrived, Samuel noticed Jesse’s oldest son, Eliab. “He has to be the one the LORD has chosen,” Samuel said to himself.

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD told him, “Samuel, don’t think Eliab is the one just because he’s tall and handsome. He isn’t the one I’ve chosen. People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what is in their hearts.”

<sup>8</sup> Jesse told his son Abinadab to go over to Samuel, but Samuel said, “No, the LORD hasn’t chosen him.”

<sup>9</sup> Next, Jesse sent his son Shammah to him, and Samuel said, “The LORD hasn’t chosen him either.”

<sup>10</sup> Jesse had all seven of his sons go over to Samuel. Finally, Samuel said, “Jesse, the LORD hasn’t chosen any of these young men. <sup>11</sup> Do you have any more sons?”

“Yes,” Jesse answered. “My youngest son David is out taking care of the sheep.”

“Send for him!” Samuel said. “We won’t start the ceremony until he gets here.”

<sup>12</sup> Jesse sent for David. He was a healthy, good-looking boy with a sparkle in his eyes. As soon as David came, the LORD told Samuel, “He’s the one! Get up and pour the olive oil on his head.”

<sup>13</sup> Samuel poured the oil on David’s head while his brothers watched. At that moment, the Spirit of the LORD took control of David and stayed with him from then on.

Samuel returned home to Ramah.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* **PSALM 119:1-24** NRSV

***With my whole heart I seek you;***

***do not let me stray from your commandments.***

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> Happy are those who keep his decrees,  
who seek him with their whole heart,

<sup>3</sup> who also do no wrong,

but walk in his ways.

<sup>4</sup> You have commanded your precepts  
to be kept diligently.

<sup>5</sup> O that my ways may be steadfast  
in keeping your statutes!

<sup>6</sup> Then I shall not be put to shame,  
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

<sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart,  
when I learn your righteous ordinances.

<sup>8</sup> I will observe your statutes;  
do not utterly forsake me.

<sup>9</sup> How can young people keep their way pure?  
By guarding it according to your word.

<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I seek you;  
do not let me stray from your commandments.

<sup>11</sup> I treasure your word in my heart,  
so that I may not sin against you.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed are you, O LORD;  
teach me your statutes.

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I declare  
all the ordinances of your mouth.

<sup>14</sup> I delight in the way of your decrees  
as much as in all riches.

<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your precepts,

and fix my eyes on your ways.

<sup>16</sup> I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.

<sup>17</sup> Deal bountifully with your servant,  
so that I may live and observe your word.

<sup>18</sup> Open my eyes, so that I may behold  
wondrous things out of your law.

<sup>19</sup> I live as an alien in the land;  
do not hide your commandments from me.

<sup>20</sup> My soul is consumed with longing  
for your ordinances at all times.

<sup>21</sup> You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,  
who wander from your commandments;

<sup>22</sup> take away from me their scorn and contempt,  
for I have kept your decrees.

<sup>23</sup> Even though princes sit plotting against me,  
your servant will meditate on your statutes.

<sup>24</sup> Your decrees are my delight,  
they are my counselors.

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

***With my whole heart I seek you;  
do not let me stray from your commandments.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Luke 24:12-35** CEV

<sup>12</sup> But Peter ran to the tomb. And when he stooped down and looked in, he saw only the burial clothes. Then he returned, wondering what had happened.

<sup>13</sup> That same day two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> As they were talking and thinking about what had happened, <sup>15</sup> Jesus came near and started walking along beside them. <sup>16</sup> But they did not know who he was.

<sup>17</sup> Jesus asked them, "What were you talking about as you walked along?"

The two of them stood there looking sad and gloomy.

<sup>18</sup> Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus, "Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?"

<sup>19</sup> "What do you mean?" Jesus asked.

They answered:

Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth. By what he did and said he showed that he was a powerful prophet, who pleased God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> Then the chief priests and our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross. <sup>21</sup> We had hoped that he would be the one to set Israel free! But it has already been three days since all this happened.

<sup>22</sup> Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> but did not find the body of Jesus. They came back, saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive.

<sup>24</sup> Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus either.

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus asked the two disciples, "Why can't you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the prophets said? <sup>26</sup> Didn't you know that the Messiah would have to suffer before he was given his glory?"

<sup>27</sup> Jesus then explained everything written about himself in the Scriptures, beginning with the Law of Moses and the Books of the Prophets.

<sup>28</sup> When the two of them came near the village where they were going, Jesus seemed to be going farther. <sup>29</sup> They

begged him, "Stay with us! It's already late, and the sun is going down." So Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "When he talked with us along the road and explained the Scriptures to us, didn't it warm our hearts?"

<sup>33</sup> So they got right up and returned to Jerusalem.

The two disciples found the eleven apostles and the others gathered together. <sup>34</sup> And they learned from the group that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter. <sup>35</sup> Then the disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.

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.***

\* FOR THE RIGHT USE OF GOD'S GIFTS

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must

one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

***Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; 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 God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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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