

Saturday, August 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 OF WISDOM**

Wisdom has built her house, setting up seven pillars.  
She has prepared the food and wine and set her table.  
***She has sent out her servants  
to call out from the Heights above the city:***  
"Let those who want enlightenment come.  
Come, taste my bread and drink my spiced wine.

***Give up your foolishness and live,  
And walk the path of understanding."***

If you are wise, your reward is wisdom;  
If you teach the just, they grow in understanding.  
***Wisdom begins with reverence for God,  
and knowledge of the holy one is insight.***

\* OSL

\* **MORNING PRAYER**

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

Let us pray:

***New every morning is your love, great God of light,  
and all day long you are working for good in the  
world. Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live  
peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day  
to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.***

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 2 Samuel 12:15-31** NRSV

Then Nathan went to his house.

The LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became very ill. <sup>16</sup> David therefore pleaded with God for the child; David fasted, and went in and lay all night on the ground. <sup>17</sup> The elders of his house stood beside him, urging him to rise from the ground; but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. <sup>18</sup> On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead; for they said, "While the child was still alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us; how then can we tell him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm." <sup>19</sup> But when David saw that his servants were whispering together, he perceived that the child was dead; and David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" They said, "He is dead."

<sup>20</sup> Then David rose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes. He went into the house of the LORD, and worshiped; he then went to his own house; and when he asked, they set food before him and he ate. <sup>21</sup> Then his servants said to him, "What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while it was alive; but when the child died, you rose and ate food." <sup>22</sup> He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me, and the child may live.'" <sup>23</sup> But now he

is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

<sup>24</sup> Then David consoled his wife Bathsheba, and went to her, and lay with her; and she bore a son, and he named him Solomon. The LORD loved him, <sup>25</sup> and sent a message by the prophet Nathan; so he named him Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

<sup>26</sup> Now Joab fought against Rabbah of the Ammonites, and took the royal city. <sup>27</sup> Joab sent messengers to David, and said, "I have fought against Rabbah; moreover, I have taken the water city." <sup>28</sup> Now, then, gather the rest of the people together, and encamp against the city, and take it; or I myself will take the city, and it will be called by my name." <sup>29</sup> So David gathered all the people together and went to Rabbah, and fought against it and took it. <sup>30</sup> He took the crown of Milcom from his head; the weight of it was a talent of gold, and in it was a precious stone; and it was placed on David's head. He also brought forth the spoil of the city, a very great amount. <sup>31</sup> He brought out the people who were in it, and set them to work with saws and iron picks and iron axes, or sent them to the brickworks. Thus he did to all the cities of the Ammonites. Then David and all the people returned to Jerusalem.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **Psalm 87** NRSV

***This one and that one were born in it;  
for the Most High himself will establish it.***

<sup>1</sup> On the holy mount stands the city he founded;

<sup>2</sup> the LORD loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

<sup>3</sup> Glorious things are spoken of you,  
O city of God. *Selah*

<sup>4</sup> Among those who know me I mention Rahab and  
Babylon;

Philistia too, and Tyre, with Ethiopia -  
“This one was born there,” they say.

<sup>5</sup> And of Zion it shall be said,  
“This one and that one were born in it”;  
for the Most High himself will establish it.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD records, as he registers the peoples,  
“This one was born there.” *Selah*

<sup>7</sup> Singers and dancers alike say,  
“All my springs are in you.”

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

***This one and that one were born in it;  
for the Most High himself will establish it.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **WORD:** **Mark 9:30-41** NRSV

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee.  
He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching  
his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be  
betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and  
three days after being killed, he will rise again.” <sup>32</sup> But they  
did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to  
ask him.

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the  
house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on

the way?”<sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.<sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.”

<sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them,<sup>37</sup> “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.”<sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

<sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us.<sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

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: John Mason Neale**

John Mason Neale was born in London in 1818, studied at Cambridge, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1842. He was offered a parish, but chronic ill health, which was to continue throughout his life, prevented him from taking it. In 1846 he was made warden of Sackville College, a position he held for the rest of his life. Sackville College was not an educational institution, but an almshouse, a charitable residence for the poor.

In 1854 Neale co-founded the Sisterhood of St. Margaret, an order of women in the Anglican Church dedicated to nursing the sick. Many Anglicans in his day, however, were very suspicious of anything suggestive of Roman Catholicism. Only nine years earlier, John H. Newman had encouraged Romish practices in the Anglican Church, and had ended up

joining the Romanists himself. This encouraged the suspicion that anyone like Neale was an agent of the Vatican, assigned to destroy the Anglican Church by subverting it from within. Once Neale was attacked and mauled at a funeral of one of the Sisters. From time to time unruly crowds threatened to stone him or to burn his house. He received no honor or preferment in England, and his doctorate was bestowed by an American college (Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut). However, his basic goodness eventually won the confidence of many who had fiercely opposed him, and the Sisterhood of St. Margaret survived and prospered.

*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: John Mason Neale**

Grant, O God, that in all time of our testing we may know your presence and obey your will; that, following the

example of your servant John Mason Neale, we may with integrity and courage accomplish what you give us to do, and endure what you give us to bear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

\* PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

***Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

\* PRAYERS FOR TOWNS and RURAL AREAS

Lord Christ, when you came among us, you proclaimed the kingdom of God in villages, towns, and lonely places: Grant that your presence and power may be known throughout this land. Have mercy upon all of us who live and work in rural areas especially here in Atlantic County; and grant that all the people of our nation may give thanks

to you for food and drink and all other physical needs of life, respect those who labor to produce them, and honor the land and the water from which these good things come. All this we ask in your holy Name. **Amen.**

\* FOR THE HARVEST OF LANDS AND WATERS

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with abundance: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through 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

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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**

May the road rise to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine warm upon your face,  
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,  
and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of his hand. **Amen.**

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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