

Thursday, August 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.

* OSL

Satisfy us in the morning

with your steadfast love, O God,

that we may sing for joy

and be glad all our days.

PSALM 90:14

* **MORNING CANTICLE OF JOY**

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands;

serve the LORD with gladness

and come before God's presence with a song.

Know this: The LORD is God; the LORD has made us,

and we belong to the One who created us;

we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;

go into God's courts with praise;

give thanks to God and call upon God's Name.

For the LORD is good;

God's mercy is everlasting;

and God's faithfulness endures from age to age.

PSALM 100

* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Dawn from on high,

Your light illumines all our days.

Awaken us to your visitations throughout this day.

Be merciful in us for the sake of others. Make us

fearless when confronting injustice and need, that we

may give you glory in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

* For All the Saints

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* **1st READING: 2 Samuel 19:1-23** NRSV

It was told Joab, “The king is weeping and mourning for Absalom.” ² So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the troops; for the troops heard that day, “The king is grieving for his son.” ³ The troops stole into the city that day as soldiers steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle. ⁴ The king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, “O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!” ⁵ Then Joab came into the house to the king, and said, “Today you have covered with shame the faces of all your officers who have saved your life today, and the lives of your sons and your daughters, and the lives of your wives and your concubines, ⁶ for love of those who hate you and for hatred of those who love you. You have made it clear today that commanders and officers are nothing to you; for I perceive that if Absalom were alive and all of us were dead today, then you would be pleased. ⁷ So go out at once and speak kindly to your servants; for I swear by the LORD, if you do not go, not a man will stay with you this night; and this will be worse for you than any disaster that has come upon you from your youth until now.” ⁸ Then the king got up and took his seat in the gate. The troops were

all told, “See, the king is sitting in the gate”; and all the troops came before the king.

Meanwhile, all the Israelites had fled to their homes. ⁹ All the people were disputing throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, “The king delivered us from the hand of our enemies, and saved us from the hand of the Philistines; and now he has fled out of the land because of Absalom. ¹⁰ But Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why do you say nothing about bringing the king back?”

¹¹ King David sent this message to the priests Zadok and Abiathar, “Say to the elders of Judah, ‘Why should you be the last to bring the king back to his house? The talk of all Israel has come to the king. ¹² You are my kin, you are my bone and my flesh; why then should you be the last to bring back the king?’ ¹³ And say to Amasa, ‘Are you not my bone and my flesh? So may God do to me, and more, if you are not the commander of my army from now on, in place of Joab.’” ¹⁴ Amasa swayed the hearts of all the people of Judah as one, and they sent word to the king, “Return, both you and all your servants.” ¹⁵ So the king came back to the Jordan; and Judah came to Gilgal to meet the king and to bring him over the Jordan.

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¹⁶ Shimei son of Gera, the Benjaminite, from Bahurim, hurried to come down with the people of Judah to meet King David; ¹⁷ with him were a thousand people from Benjamin. And Ziba, the servant of the house of Saul, with his fifteen sons and his twenty servants, rushed down to the Jordan ahead of the king, ¹⁸ while the crossing was taking place, to bring over the king's household, and to do his pleasure.

Shimei son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was about to cross the Jordan, ¹⁹ and said to the king, "May my lord not hold me guilty or remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem; may the king not bear it in mind. ²⁰ For your servant knows that I have sinned; therefore, see, I have come this day, the first of all the house of Joseph to come down to meet my lord the king." ²¹ Abishai son of Zeruah answered, "Shall not Shimei be put to death for this, because he cursed the LORD's anointed?" ²² But David said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruah, that you should today become an adversary to me? Shall anyone be put to death in Israel this day? For do I not know that I am this day king over Israel?" ²³ The king said to Shimei, "You shall not die." And the king gave him his oath.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* [Psalm 132](#) NRSV

***"Let us go to his dwelling place;
let us worship at his footstool."***

O LORD, remember in David's favor
all the hardships he endured;
² how he swore to the LORD
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
³ "I will not enter my house
or get into my bed;
⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,
⁵ until I find a place for the LORD,
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."
⁶ We heard of it in Ephrathah;
we found it in the fields of Jaar.

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⁷ “Let us go to his dwelling place;
let us worship at his footstool.”

⁸ Rise up, O LORD, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.

⁹ Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and let your faithful shout for joy.

¹⁰ For your servant David’s sake
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

¹¹ The LORD swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:

“One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.

¹² If your sons keep my covenant
and my decrees that I shall teach them,
their sons also, forevermore,
shall sit on your throne.”

¹³ For the LORD has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his habitation:

¹⁴ “This is my resting place forever;
here I will reside, for I have desired it.

¹⁵ I will abundantly bless its provisions;
I will satisfy its poor with bread.

¹⁶ Its priests I will clothe with salvation,

and its faithful will shout for joy.

¹⁷ There I will cause a horn to sprout up for David;
I have prepared a lamp for my anointed one.

¹⁸ His enemies I will clothe with disgrace,
but on him, his crown will gleam.”

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

***“Let us go to his dwelling place;
let us worship at his footstool.”***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **2nd READING: Mark 12:28-34** NRSV

²⁸ One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing
with one another, and seeing that he answered them well,
he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord
our God, the Lord is one;’ ³⁰ you shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all
your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is
this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is

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no other commandment greater than these.”³² Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’;³³ and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”³⁴ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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*.

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* **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: Jonathan Myrick Daniels (1965)**

Despite his New England childhood, Jonathan Myrick Daniels grew up with a romantic fondness for the South, inflamed by brief stays in Arkansas and Kentucky and an undergraduate education in Virginia. Bright and sensitive, Daniels thrived at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge until the spring of his second year, when Martin Luther King, Jr., summoned religious leaders to join him in the march from Selma to Montgomery. With ten other students, Daniels traveled to Alabama to practice the love and justice of the gospel in support of civil rights. Unlike most of his fellows, Daniels remained in Selma after the march, finding self-identity in his work there. He returned to Selma, after receiving permission from his seminary professors, with student Judy Upham. The two joined in protests, worked to integrate the town's Episcopal Church, and assisted Selma's African-American residents in accessing social services.

While on his third trip to Alabama, Daniels turned his attention to Lowndes County, a poor and violently segregated rural area near Selma. On August 14, he joined a protest of segregated businesses in Lowndes, only to be quickly arrested. The group was held, illegally, in the county jail and suddenly released several days

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later. Spurred by fear of the released protestors, a local highway official threatened Daniels and his interracial company as they attempted to enter a store. The man shot Daniels, who had pushed fellow protestor Ruby Sales out of the way. Another member of the group was injured, but Daniels was killed instantly.

Reflecting on his work in Selma for a seminary assignment, Daniels wrote:

Sometimes we take to the streets, sometimes we yawn through interminable meetings. Sometimes we talk with white men in their homes and offices, sometimes we sit out a murderous night with an alcoholic and his family because we love them and cannot stand apart. Sometimes we confront the posse, and sometimes we hold a child. Sometimes we stand with men who have learned to hate, and sometimes we must stand a little apart from them... For through the bramble bush of doubt and fear and supposed success we are groping our way to the realization that above all else, we are called to be saints... Selma, Alabama, is like all the world: it needs the life and witness of militant saints.

On this day, the eve of his death, we remember Jonathan Daniels and draw inspiration from his courageous stance of humble love.

* **PRAYERS**

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

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

* **COLLECT: Jonathan Myrick Daniels**

Fearless Jesus who suffered a baptism of blood, as we celebrate Jonathan Myrick Daniels who confessed your name in the face of the spiritual forces of wickedness and death-dealing scorn, renew in us our baptismal promise to reject evil, to resist injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves, and to openly confess you as Savior and Lord. ***Amen.***

* **PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS**

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to

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those we pray for this day, the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* FOR GUIDANCE #58

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 PRAYER OF SELF-DEDICATION

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **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, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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* 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**

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, will be ours who live in truth and love. **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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