

Tuesday, August 17, 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: 2 Samuel 18:9-18** NRSV

<sup>9</sup> Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. <sup>10</sup> A man saw it, and told Joab, "I saw Absalom hanging in an oak." <sup>11</sup> Joab said to the man who told him, "What, you saw him! Why then did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have been glad to give you ten pieces of silver and a belt." <sup>12</sup> But the man said to Joab, "Even if I felt in my hand the weight of a thousand pieces of silver, I would not raise my hand against the king's son; for in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying: For my sake protect the young man Absalom!" <sup>13</sup> On the other hand, if I had dealt treacherously against

his life (and there is nothing hidden from the king), then you yourself would have stood aloof." <sup>14</sup> Joab said, "I will not waste time like this with you." He took three spears in his hand, and thrust them into the heart of Absalom, while he was still alive in the oak. <sup>15</sup> And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

<sup>16</sup> Then Joab sounded the trumpet, and the troops came back from pursuing Israel, for Joab restrained the troops. <sup>17</sup> They took Absalom, threw him into a great pit in the forest, and raised over him a very great heap of stones. Meanwhile all the Israelites fled to their homes. <sup>18</sup> Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and set up for himself a pillar that is in the King's Valley, for he said, "I have no son to keep my name in remembrance"; he called the pillar by his own name. It is called Absalom's Monument to this day.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* [Psalm 121](#) NRSV

***My help will come from the LORD,  
who created the heavens and the earth.***

I look to the hills!

Where will I find help?

<sup>2</sup> It will come from the LORD,  
who created the heavens  
and the earth.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is your protector,  
and he won't go to sleep  
or let you stumble.

<sup>4</sup> The protector of Israel  
doesn't doze  
or ever get drowsy.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is your protector,  
there at your right side  
to shade you from the sun.

<sup>6</sup> You won't be harmed  
by the sun during the day  
or by the moon at night.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will protect you  
and keep you safe  
from all dangers.

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will protect you  
now and always  
wherever you go.

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

***My help will come from the LORD,  
who created the heavens and the earth.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **2<sup>nd</sup> READING:** **Mark 11:27-12:12** NRSV

<sup>27</sup> Again they came to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him <sup>28</sup> and said, "By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.

<sup>30</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me." <sup>31</sup> They argued with one

another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’”<sup>32</sup> But shall we say, ‘Of human origin?’—they were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet.<sup>33</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

12 Then he began to speak to them in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.<sup>2</sup> When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard.<sup>3</sup> But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty-handed.<sup>4</sup> And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted.<sup>5</sup> Then he sent another, and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed.<sup>6</sup> He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’<sup>7</sup> But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’<sup>8</sup> So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.<sup>9</sup> What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the

tenants and give the vineyard to others.<sup>10</sup> Have you not read this scripture:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
<sup>11</sup> this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes?’”

<sup>12</sup> When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

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**

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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 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

\* THE APOSTLE'S CREED

*I believe in God,*

\* **PRAYERS**

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

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

\* 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.***

\* PRAYERS FOR a Person in Trouble or Bereavement

O merciful Father, who has taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity upon the sorrows of you servants for whom our prayers are offered. Remember them, O Lord, in mercy, nourish their souls with patience, comfort them with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon them, and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for all future generations. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, 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.***

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\* 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.**

\* 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.**

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## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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