

Wednesday, August 11, 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: 2 Samuel 14:21-33** NRSV

<sup>21</sup> Then the king said to Joab, “Very well, I grant this; go, bring back the young man Absalom.” <sup>22</sup> Joab prostrated himself with his face to the ground and did obeisance, and blessed the king; and Joab said, “Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord the king, in that the king has granted the request of his servant.” <sup>23</sup> So Joab set off, went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. <sup>24</sup> The king said, “Let him go to his own house; he is not to come into my presence.” So Absalom went to his own house, and did not come into the king’s presence.

### **David Forgives Absalom**

<sup>25</sup> Now in all Israel there was no one to be praised so much for his beauty as Absalom; from the sole of his foot

to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. <sup>26</sup> When he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the king’s weight. <sup>27</sup> There were born to Absalom three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar; she was a beautiful woman.

<sup>28</sup> So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, without coming into the king’s presence. <sup>29</sup> Then Absalom sent for Joab to send him to the king; but Joab would not come to him. He sent a second time, but Joab would not come.

<sup>30</sup> Then he said to his servants, “Look, Joab’s field is next to mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire.” So Absalom’s servants set the field on fire. <sup>31</sup> Then Joab rose and went to Absalom at his house, and said to him, “Why have your servants set my field on fire?” <sup>32</sup> Absalom answered Joab, “Look, I sent word to you: Come here, that I may send you to the king with the question, ‘Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still.’ Now let me go into the king’s presence; if there is guilt in me, let him kill me!” <sup>33</sup> Then Joab went to the king and told him; and he summoned Absalom. So he came to the king and prostrated himself with his face to the ground before the king; and the king kissed Absalom.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **PSALM 101** NRSV

***I will look with favor on the faithful in the land,  
so that they may live with me;***

<sup>1</sup> I will sing of loyalty and of justice;  
to you, O LORD, I will sing.

<sup>2</sup> I will study the way that is blameless.  
When shall I attain it?

I will walk with integrity of heart  
within my house;

<sup>3</sup> I will not set before my eyes  
anything that is base.

I hate the work of those who fall away;  
it shall not cling to me.

<sup>4</sup> Perverseness of heart shall be far from me;  
I will know nothing of evil.

<sup>5</sup> One who secretly slanders a neighbor  
I will destroy.

A haughty look and an arrogant heart  
I will not tolerate.

<sup>6</sup> I will look with favor on the faithful in the land,  
so that they may live with me;  
whoever walks in the way that is blameless  
shall minister to me.

<sup>7</sup> No one who practices deceit  
shall remain in my house;  
no one who utters lies  
shall continue in my presence.

<sup>8</sup> Morning by morning I will destroy  
all the wicked in the land,  
cutting off all evildoers  
from the city of the LORD.

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

***I will look with favor on the faithful in the land,  
so that they may live with me;***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31** NRSV

<sup>17</sup> As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>18</sup> Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” <sup>20</sup> He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” <sup>22</sup> When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup> Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” <sup>24</sup> And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone

who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup> They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

<sup>28</sup> Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” <sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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

\* **COMMEMORATION: Clare of Assisi**

Clare of Assisi (b. 1194) was the third of five children born to Ortolana and Favarone di Offreduccio. She renounced her wealth and position for the religious life, and in 1212 she committed to following Francis in the pursuit of gospel perfection. After a short stay with some Benedictine nuns, she went to San Damiano, where she established a community of women known as the Poor Ladies and remained for 42 years. In a simple, cloistered life at San Damiano, Clare practiced severe austerity in food and drink, fasting three days a week, and suffering from illness for many years. She and the other women wore poor garments in remembrance of the baby Jesus and his mother who wrapped him in swaddling clothes. Even in her role as abbess, a title which she took reluctantly, she displayed humility and kindness. She endeavored to set an example of virtue for the community, seeing it as her duty to console the ill and provide for them. Decisions were made with the advice of her sisters, and Clare's directions for the community emphasized a need for consent "to preserve the unity of mutual love and peace."

\* For All the Saints

\* **COLLECT: Clare of Assisi**

O God, whose blessed Son became poor that we, through his poverty, might become rich: Deliver us from an inordinate love of this world, that we, inspired by the devotion of your servant Clare, might serve you with singleness of heart and attain to the riches of the age to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

\* **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 Prisons and Correctional Institutions

***Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remembering all prisoners, bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. Amen.***

\* PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sets the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them, we ask you, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who have become family. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the

children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kind hearted one to another; 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

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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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