

Wednesday, August 4, 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 9:1-13** NRSV

David asked, "Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul to whom I may show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

<sup>2</sup> Now there was a servant of the house of Saul whose name was Ziba, and he was summoned to David. The king said to him, "Are you Ziba?" And he said, "At your service!" <sup>3</sup> The king said, "Is there anyone remaining of the house of Saul to whom I may show the kindness of God?"

Ziba said to the king, "There remains a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in his feet." <sup>4</sup> The king said to him, "Where is he?" Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." <sup>5</sup> Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar. <sup>6</sup> Mephibosheth son of Jonathan son of Saul came to David, and fell on his face and did obeisance. David said, "Mephibosheth!" He answered, "I am your

servant." <sup>7</sup> David said to him, "Do not be afraid, for I will show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan; I will restore to you all the land of your grandfather Saul, and you yourself shall eat at my table always." <sup>8</sup> He did obeisance and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon a dead dog such as I?"

<sup>9</sup> Then the king summoned Saul's servant Ziba, and said to him, "All that belonged to Saul and to all his house I have given to your master's grandson. <sup>10</sup> You and your sons and your servants shall till the land for him, and shall bring in the produce, so that your master's grandson may have food to eat; but your master's grandson Mephibosheth shall always eat at my table." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. <sup>11</sup> Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king commands his servant, so your servant will do." Mephibosheth ate at David's table, like one of the king's sons. <sup>12</sup> Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Mica. And all who lived in Ziba's house became Mephibosheth's servants. <sup>13</sup> Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, for he always ate at the king's table. Now he was lame in both his feet.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **PSALM 119:97-120** NRSV

***Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.***

<sup>97</sup> Oh, how I love your law!

It is my meditation all day long.

<sup>98</sup> Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is always with me.

<sup>99</sup> I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your decrees are my meditation.

<sup>100</sup> I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts.

<sup>101</sup> I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.

<sup>102</sup> I do not turn away from your ordinances,  
for you have taught me.

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup> Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup> I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to observe your righteous ordinances.

<sup>107</sup> I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

<sup>108</sup> Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,  
and teach me your ordinances.

<sup>109</sup> I hold my life in my hand continually,  
but I do not forget your law.

<sup>110</sup> The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
but I do not stray from your precepts.

<sup>111</sup> Your decrees are my heritage forever;  
they are the joy of my heart.

<sup>112</sup> I incline my heart to perform your statutes  
forever, to the end.

<sup>113</sup> I hate the double-minded,  
but I love your law.

<sup>114</sup> You are my hiding place and my shield;  
I hope in your word.

<sup>115</sup> Go away from me, you evildoers,  
that I may keep the commandments of my God.

<sup>116</sup> Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,  
and let me not be put to shame in my hope.

<sup>117</sup> Hold me up, that I may be safe  
and have regard for your statutes continually.

<sup>118</sup> You spurn all who go astray from your statutes;  
for their cunning is in vain.

<sup>119</sup> All the wicked of the earth you count as dross;  
therefore I love your decrees.

<sup>120</sup> My flesh trembles for fear of you,  
and I am afraid of your judgments.

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

***Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Mark 8:34-9:1** NRSV

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,  
“If any want to become my followers, let them deny  
themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For  
those who want to save their life will lose it, and those  
who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the  
gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain  
the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can  
they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are

ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and  
sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be  
ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with  
the holy angels.” **9** And he said to them, “Truly I tell you,  
there are some standing here who will not taste death  
until they see that the kingdom of God has come with  
power.”

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.***

\* PRAYERS FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

***O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, and especially administrators and teachers continuing to adapt in this time of pandemic recovery, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\* PRAYER FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by

your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; 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

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**

“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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