

Friday, December 31, 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. * OS�

**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 First Song of Isaiah*

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great
things, and this is known in all the world.**
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you
is the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 12:2-6

* **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

* **Psalm 46** NRSV

***The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.***

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³ though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶ The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

⁸ Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

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

***The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1ST READING: James 4:13-17, 5:7-11** CEB

¹³ Pay attention, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such-and-such a town. We will stay there a year, buying and selling, and making a profit." ¹⁴ You don't really know about tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for only a short while before it vanishes. ¹⁵ Here's what you ought to say: "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ But now you boast and brag, and all such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ It is a sin when someone knows the right thing to do and doesn't do it.

⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who

waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. ⁸You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness. ¹¹Look at how we honor those who have practiced endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job. And you have seen what the Lord has accomplished, for the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL READING** John 5:1-15 CEB

After this there was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²In Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate in the north

city wall is a pool with the Aramaic name Bethsaida. It had five covered porches, ³and a crowd of people who were sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed sat there. ⁵A certain man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there, knowing that he had already been there a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

⁷The sick man answered him, "Sir, I don't have anyone who can put me in the water when it is stirred up. When I'm trying to get to it, someone else has gotten in ahead of me."

⁸Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk."

⁹Immediately the man was well, and he picked up his mat and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

¹⁰The Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It's the Sabbath; you aren't allowed to carry your mat."

¹¹He answered, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'"

¹²They inquired, "Who is this man who said to you, 'Pick it up and walk'?" ¹³The man who had been cured didn't know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away from the crowd gathered there.

¹⁴Later Jesus found him in the temple and said, "See! You have been made well. Don't sin anymore in case something

worse happens to you.”¹⁵ The man went and proclaimed to the Jewish leaders that Jesus was the man who had made him well.

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*. LUKE 1:68-79

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

* **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, the strength of the weak and the comfort of

sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to 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.**

* 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 FOR FRIDAY**

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

* **COLLECT OF THE WEEK**

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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**

“But blessed are those who trust in the Lord
and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.
They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.
Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.
Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.” **Amen.** Jeremiah 17:7-8

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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