

Monday, December 20, 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 THANKSGIVING**

It is good to give thanks to the *LORD*,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most *High*;  
**to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithful-ness by night,**  
to the music of the lute and the *harp*,  
to the melody of the lyre.

**For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are ver-y deep!

Psalm 92:1-5

\* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One\* be with you;

**And also with you.**

Let us pray:

**New every morning is your love, great God of light,  
and all day long you are working for good in the world.  
Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with  
our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our  
Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

\* **Psalm 61** NRSV

**Hear my cry, O God;  
listen to my prayer.**

<sup>1</sup> Hear my cry, O God;  
listen to my prayer.

<sup>2</sup> From the end of the earth I call to you,  
when my heart is faint.

Lead me to the rock

that is higher than I;

<sup>3</sup> for you are my refuge,

a strong tower against the enemy.

<sup>4</sup> Let me abide in your tent forever,

find refuge under the shelter of your wings. *Selah*

<sup>5</sup> For you, O God, have heard my vows;

you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

<sup>6</sup> Prolong the life of the king;

may his years endure to all generations!

<sup>7</sup> May he be enthroned forever before God;

appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

<sup>8</sup> So I will always sing praises to your name,

as I pay my vows day after day.

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,

one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

***Hear my cry, O God;***

***listen to my prayer.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Titus 1:1-16** CEB

From Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I'm sent to bring about the faith of God's chosen people and a knowledge of the truth that agrees with godliness.

<sup>2</sup> Their faith and this knowledge are based on the hope of eternal life that God, who doesn't lie, promised before time began. <sup>3</sup> God revealed his message at the appropriate time through preaching, and I was trusted with preaching this message by the command of God our savior.

<sup>4</sup> To Titus, my true child in a common faith.

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our savior.

<sup>5</sup> The reason I left you behind in Crete was to organize whatever needs to be done and to appoint elders in each city, as I told you. <sup>6</sup> Elders should be without fault. They should be faithful to their spouse, and have faithful children who can't be accused of self-indulgence or rebelliousness.

<sup>7</sup> This is because supervisors should be without fault as God's managers: they shouldn't be stubborn, irritable, addicted to alcohol, a bully, or greedy. <sup>8</sup> Instead, they should show hospitality, love what is good, and be reasonable, ethical, godly, and self-controlled. <sup>9</sup> They must pay attention to the reliable message as it has been taught to them so that

they can encourage people with healthy instruction and refute those who speak against it.

<sup>10</sup> In fact, there are many who are rebellious people, loudmouths, and deceivers, especially some of those who are Jewish believers. <sup>11</sup> They must be silenced because they upset entire households. They teach what they shouldn't to make money dishonestly. <sup>12</sup> Someone who is one of their own prophets said, "People from Crete are always liars, wild animals, and lazy gluttons." <sup>13</sup> This statement is true. Because of this, correct them firmly, so that they can be healthy in their faith. <sup>14</sup> They shouldn't pay attention to Jewish myths and commands from people who reject the truth. <sup>15</sup> Everything is clean to those who are clean, but nothing is clean to those who are corrupt and without faith. Instead, their mind and conscience are corrupted. <sup>16</sup> They claim to know God, but they deny God by the things that they do. They are detestable, disobedient, and disqualified to do anything good.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:1-25** CEB

Many people have already applied themselves to the task of compiling an account of the events that have been fulfilled among us. <sup>2</sup> They used what the original eyewitnesses and servants of the word handed down to us. <sup>3</sup> Now, after having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, I have also decided to write a carefully ordered account for you, most honorable Theophilus. <sup>4</sup> I want you to have confidence in the soundness of the instruction you have received.

<sup>5</sup> During the rule of King Herod of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. <sup>6</sup> They were both righteous before God, blameless in their observance of all the Lord's commandments and regulations. <sup>7</sup> They had no children because Elizabeth was unable to become pregnant and they both were very old. <sup>8</sup> One day Zechariah was serving as a priest before God because his priestly division was on duty. <sup>9</sup> Following the customs of priestly service, he was chosen by lottery to go into the Lord's sanctuary and burn incense. <sup>10</sup> All the people who gathered to worship were praying outside during this hour of incense offering. <sup>11</sup> An angel from the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When

Zechariah saw the angel, he was startled and overcome with fear.

<sup>13</sup> The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayers have been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will give birth to your son and you must name him John. <sup>14</sup> He will be a joy and delight to you, and many people will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the Lord’s eyes. He must not drink wine and liquor. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before his birth. <sup>16</sup> He will bring many Israelites back to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He will go forth before the Lord, equipped with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will turn the hearts of fathers<sup>[a]</sup> back to their children, and he will turn the disobedient to righteous patterns of thinking. He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? My wife and I are very old.”

<sup>19</sup> The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in God’s presence. I was sent to speak to you and to bring this good news to you. <sup>20</sup> Know this: What I have spoken will come true at the proper time. But because you didn’t believe, you will remain silent, unable to speak until the day when these things happen.”

<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they wondered why he was in the sanctuary for such a long

time. <sup>22</sup> When he came out, he was unable to speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he gestured to them and couldn’t speak. <sup>23</sup> When he completed the days of his priestly service, he returned home.

<sup>24</sup> Afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She kept to herself for five months, saying, <sup>25</sup> “This is the Lord’s doing. He has shown his favor to me by removing my disgrace among other people.”

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*.

\* 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)*

\* PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

***Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

\* FOR PEACE

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. ***Amen.***

\* PRAYERS FOR CONGRESS

***O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: We implore you so to guide and bless our Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled and in the Legislature of this State, that they may enact such laws as shall please you, to the glory of your Name and the welfare of this people; 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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; 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**

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always. **Amen**

# Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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