

Thursday, December 30, 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.***

PSALM 90:14

\* **MORNING CANTICLE OF JOY**

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands;

serve the LORD with gladness

and come before God's presence with a song.

***Know this: The LORD is God; the LORD has made us,***

***and we belong to the One who created us;***

***we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.***

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;

go into God's courts with praise;

give thanks to God and call upon God's Name.

***For the LORD is good;***

***God's mercy is everlasting;***

***and God's faithfulness endures from age to age.***

PSALM 100

\* **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.***

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\* **Psalm 20** NRSV

***The LORD answer you in the day of trouble,  
our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.***

The LORD answer you in the day of trouble!

The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

<sup>2</sup> May he send you help from the sanctuary,  
and give you support from Zion.

<sup>3</sup> May he remember all your offerings,  
and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices. *Selah*

<sup>4</sup> May he grant you your heart's desire,  
and fulfill all your plans.

<sup>5</sup> May we shout for joy over your victory,  
and in the name of our God set up our banners.  
May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.

<sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD will help his anointed;  
he will answer him from his holy heaven  
with mighty victories by his right hand.

<sup>7</sup> Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses,  
but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.

<sup>8</sup> They will collapse and fall,  
but we shall rise and stand upright.

<sup>9</sup> Give victory to the king, O LORD;  
answer us when we call.

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

***The LORD answer you in the day of trouble,  
our pride is in the name of the LORD our God.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 3 John 1-15** NRSV

<sup>1</sup> The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul. <sup>3</sup> I was overjoyed when some of the friends arrived and testified to your faithfulness to the truth, namely how you walk in the truth. <sup>4</sup> I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

<sup>5</sup> Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you; <sup>6</sup> they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on in a manner worthy of God; <sup>7</sup> for they began their journey for the sake of Christ, accepting no

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support from non-believers. <sup>8</sup> Therefore we ought to support such people, so that we may become co-workers with the truth.

<sup>9</sup> I have written something to the church; but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. <sup>10</sup> So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing in spreading false charges against us. And not content with those charges, he refuses to welcome the friends, and even prevents those who want to do so and expels them from the church.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but imitate what is good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. <sup>12</sup> Everyone has testified favorably about Demetrius, and so has the truth itself. We also testify for him, and you know that our testimony is true.

<sup>13</sup> I have much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink; <sup>14</sup> instead I hope to see you soon, and we will talk together face to face.

<sup>15</sup> Peace to you. The friends send you their greetings. Greet the friends there, each by name.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **2<sup>nd</sup> READING: John 4:46-54** NRSV

<sup>46</sup> Then he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. <sup>47</sup> When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. <sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you <sup>[a]</sup> see signs and wonders you will not believe." <sup>49</sup> The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my little boy dies." <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. <sup>51</sup> As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. <sup>52</sup> So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him." <sup>53</sup> The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he himself believed, along with his whole household. <sup>54</sup> Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

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;***

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***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.***

\* FOR THE UNEMPLOYED *(adapted)*

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who  
suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people  
of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all  
who are truly in need may find suitable and fulfilling  
employment, and receive just payment for their labor;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* PRAYERS FOR UNITY OF THE CHURCH

***O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only  
Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously  
to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our  
unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and  
prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from  
godly union and harmony; that, as there is but one  
Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one  
Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of***

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***us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; 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**

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.**

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\* **BLESSING**

The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the extravagant love of God, the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit, be with all of you. **Amen.**

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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