

Tuesday, December 21, 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 PRAISE**

Come, let us sing to the Ho-ly One;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
**Let us come before God's presence
with thanksgiving,
and raise a loud shout with psalms.**

For you, O God, are a great God,
you are great above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are yours also.**

The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
**Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
and kneel before God, our Maker.**

For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand.
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

PSALM 95:1-7

*** MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One be with you;
And also with you.

Let us pray:
**Oh God, The Holy Spirit,
come to us, and among us;
come as the wind, and cleanse us;
come as the fire, and burn;
come as the dew, and refresh;**

convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives to our great good and to your greater glory; and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

* [Psalm 67](#) NRSV

***Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.***

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah*

² that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah*

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.

⁷ May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

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

***Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: Titus 2:1-10** NRSV

But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. ² Tell the older men to be temperate, serious, prudent, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance.

³ Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, ⁴ so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, chaste, good managers of the household, kind, being submissive to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited.

⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

⁷ Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and

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in your teaching show integrity, gravity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us.

⁹ Tell slaves to be submissive to their masters and to give satisfaction in every respect; they are not to talk back, ¹⁰ not to pilfer, but to show complete and perfect fidelity, so that in everything they may be an ornament to the doctrine of God our Savior.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **2nd READING:** **Luke 1:26-38** NRSV

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do

not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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: THOMAS**

“Thomas was among the twelve whom Jesus called and commissioned to heal the sick and proclaim the gospel. Though all four gospels mention him, John’s gospel alone features him as a speaker interacting with his fellow disciples and Jesus. In three vignettes we catch a glimpse of Thomas and perceive through the evangelist’s characterization the earnest, struggling faith of this early follower of Jesus.

According to Eusebius, Thomas carried the gospel to Parthia. The apocryphal Acts of Thomas gives a legendary account of mission work and martyrdom in India. According to the Acts he worked in India as a carpenter and builder and so in Roman Catholic tradition he is the patron saint of builders and architects.”

* For All the Saints

* 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)*

* **COLLECT: THOMAS**

Holy Triune God, Thomas recalls our journey toward faith. As he asked to see you, by baptismal faith bring us to yourself. As he refused secondhand experience, by the means of grace bring us to the true joy in Christ. As he confessed you triumphantly, so open our lips to say, “My Lord and my God.” Amen.

* For All the Saints

* **PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO MOURN**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with those deep in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have

confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* PRAYER FOR PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

* PRAYERS FOR COURTS OF JUSTICE

Almighty God, who sits in the throne judging right: We humbly request you to bless the courts of justice and the judges in all this land; and give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of you alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. 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.***

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* 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**

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

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Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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