

Wednesday, December 15, 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:

***Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you created us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they find rest in you. Grant to us such piety of heart and strength of purpose that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, and no weakness from doing it. In your light may we see life clearly and, in your service, find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

St. Augustine

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* [Psalm 119:49-72](#) NRSV

***The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes.***

Remember your word to your servant,  
in which you have made me hope.

<sup>50</sup> This is my comfort in my distress,  
that your promise gives me life.

<sup>51</sup> The arrogant utterly deride me,  
but I do not turn away from your law.

<sup>52</sup> When I think of your ordinances from of old,

I take comfort, O LORD.

<sup>53</sup> Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,  
those who forsake your law.

<sup>54</sup> Your statutes have been my songs  
wherever I make my home.

<sup>55</sup> I remember your name in the night, O LORD,  
and keep your law.

<sup>56</sup> This blessing has fallen to me,  
for I have kept your precepts.

<sup>57</sup> The LORD is my portion;  
I promise to keep your words.

<sup>58</sup> I implore your favor with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to your promise.

<sup>59</sup> When I think of your ways,  
I turn my feet to your decrees;

<sup>60</sup> I hurry and do not delay  
to keep your commandments.

<sup>61</sup> Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,  
I do not forget your law.

<sup>62</sup> At midnight I rise to praise you,  
because of your righteous ordinances.

<sup>63</sup> I am a companion of all who fear you,  
of those who keep your precepts.

<sup>64</sup> The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes.

<sup>65</sup> You have dealt well with your servant,  
O LORD, according to your word.

<sup>66</sup> Teach me good judgment and knowledge,  
for I believe in your commandments.

<sup>67</sup> Before I was humbled I went astray,  
but now I keep your word.

<sup>68</sup> You are good and do good;  
teach me your statutes.

<sup>69</sup> The arrogant smear me with lies,  
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.

<sup>70</sup> Their hearts are fat and gross,  
but I delight in your law.

<sup>71</sup> It is good for me that I was humbled,  
so that I might learn your statutes.

<sup>72</sup> The law of your mouth is better to me  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

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

***The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: Revelation 4:1-8** NRSV

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open!  
And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like  
a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what  
must take place after this." <sup>2</sup> At once I was in the spirit,  
and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on  
the throne! <sup>3</sup> And the one seated there looks like jasper  
and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that  
looks like an emerald. <sup>4</sup> Around the throne are twenty-four  
thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders,  
dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their  
heads. <sup>5</sup> Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning,  
and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the  
throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven  
spirits of God; <sup>6</sup> and in front of the throne there is  
something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are  
four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: <sup>7</sup> the  
first living creature like a lion, the second living creature  
like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a  
human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying

eagle. <sup>8</sup> And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

“Holy, holy, holy,  
the Lord God the Almighty,  
who was and is and is to come.”

Holy wisdom, holy word.  
***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Matthew 24:45-51** NRSV

<sup>45</sup> “Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time?  
<sup>46</sup> Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. <sup>47</sup> Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But if that wicked slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ <sup>49</sup> and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards, <sup>50</sup> the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does

not know. <sup>51</sup> He will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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*)

\* PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with those we lift today, that their weaknesses may be banished and their strength restored; and that with health being renewed, all may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* FOR JOY IN GOD'S CREATION

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

***Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of***

***this mortal life, they may ever be defended by your gracious and ready help; 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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and

deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, 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**

“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.**”

12/15/21

## **Morning Prayer**

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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