

Friday, February 4, 2022

\* **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:

**Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy**  
**thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which**  
**no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no**  
**unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us**  
**also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you,**  
**diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a**  
**faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through**  
**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT.)

***O God, you know my folly;  
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.***

<sup>1</sup> Save me, O God,  
for the waters have come up to my neck.

<sup>2</sup> I sink in deep mire,  
where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters,  
and the flood sweeps over me.

<sup>3</sup> I am weary with my crying;  
my throat is parched.  
My eyes grow dim  
with waiting for my God.

<sup>4</sup> More in number than the hairs of my head  
are those who hate me without cause;  
many are those who would destroy me,  
my enemies who accuse me falsely.  
What I did not steal  
must I now restore?

<sup>5</sup> O God, you know my folly;  
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.

<sup>6</sup> Do not let those who hope in you be put to shame because  
of me,  
O Lord GOD of hosts;

do not let those who seek you be dishonored because of me,  
O God of Israel.

<sup>7</sup> It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,  
that shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup> I have become a stranger to my kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.

<sup>9</sup> It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;  
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

<sup>10</sup> When I humbled my soul with fasting,  
they insulted me for doing so.

<sup>11</sup> When I made sackcloth my clothing,  
I became a byword to them.

<sup>12</sup> I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.

<sup>13</sup> But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD.  
At an acceptable time, O God,  
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.  
With your faithful help <sup>14</sup> rescue me  
from sinking in the mire;  
let me be delivered from my enemies  
and from the deep waters.

<sup>15</sup> Do not let the flood sweep over me,  
or the deep swallow me up,  
or the Pit close its mouth over me.

<sup>16</sup> Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;  
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

<sup>17</sup> Do not hide your face from your servant,  
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

<sup>18</sup> Draw near to me, redeem me,  
set me free because of my enemies.

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

***O God, you know my folly;  
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Hebrews 12:3-11** CEB

<sup>3</sup> Think about the one who endured such opposition from  
sinners so that you won't be discouraged and you won't give  
up. <sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you haven't resisted yet to  
the point of shedding blood, <sup>5</sup> and you have forgotten the  
encouragement that addresses you as sons and daughters:

*My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline  
or give up when you are corrected by him,*

<sup>6</sup> *because the Lord disciplines whomever he loves,*

*and he punishes every son or daughter whom he  
accepts.*

<sup>7</sup> Bear hardship for the sake of discipline. God is treating you  
like sons and daughters! What child isn't disciplined by his or  
her father? <sup>8</sup> But if you don't experience discipline, which  
happens to all children, then you are illegitimate and not real  
sons and daughters. <sup>9</sup> What's more, we had human parents  
who disciplined us, and we respected them for it. How much  
more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live?

<sup>10</sup> Our human parents disciplined us for a little while, as it  
seemed best to them, but God does it for our benefit so that  
we can share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline is fun while it  
lasts, but it seems painful at the time. Later, however, it  
yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have  
been trained by it.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL READING: John 7:1-13** CEB

After this Jesus traveled throughout Galilee. He didn't want  
to travel in Judea, because the Jewish authorities wanted to

kill him. <sup>2</sup> When it was almost time for the Jewish Festival of Booths, <sup>3</sup> Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee. Go to Judea so that your disciples can see the amazing works that you do. <sup>4</sup> Those who want to be known publicly don't do things secretly. Since you can do these things, show yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> His brothers said this because even they didn't believe in him.

<sup>6</sup> Jesus replied, "For you, anytime is fine. But my time hasn't come yet. <sup>7</sup> The world can't hate you. It hates me, though, because I testify that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> You go up to the festival. I'm not going to this one because my time hasn't yet come." <sup>9</sup> Having said this, he stayed in Galilee. <sup>10</sup> However, after his brothers left for the festival, he went too—not openly but in secret.

<sup>11</sup> The Jewish leaders were looking for Jesus at the festival. They kept asking, "Where is he?" <sup>12</sup> The crowds were murmuring about him. "He's a good man," some said, but others were saying, "No, he tricks the people." <sup>13</sup> No one spoke about him publicly, though, for fear of the Jewish authorities.

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

\* **COMMEMORATION: Cornelius the Centurion**

All that we know of Cornelius is contained in the Book of Acts (chapters 10 and 11). A centurion was a Roman army officer, theoretically in charge of a hundred men. Several centurions are mentioned in the New Testament . . . and they are consistently portrayed favorably.

Cornelius was the first Gentile converted to Christianity, along with his household, and Luke, recording this event, clearly regards it as an event of the utmost importance in the history of the early Church, the beginning of the Church's decision to admit Gentiles to full and equal fellowship with Jewish Christians.

.....

Cornelius lived in Caesarea, the political capital of Judea under Herod and the Romans. Although he is not mentioned again, he and his household presumably formed the nucleus of the Christian community that we find mentioned later (Acts 8:40; 21:18) in this important city.

[The Lectionary](#)

\* **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,  
***and also with you.***

Let us pray: *(stop and pray for those on your heart today)*

\* **COLLECT: Cornelius The Centurion**

O God, who by your Spirit called Cornelius the Centurion to be the first Christian among the Gentiles: Grant to your church such a ready will to go where you send and to do what you command that the prejudices that blind us might cease, and that we might welcome all who turn to you in love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***Amen.***

\* Holy Women, Holy Men

\* **FOR A SICK PERSON**

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly ask you to recognize, visit, and relieve your sick servants for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; preserve them from the temptations of the enemy; and give them patience under their affliction. In your good time, restore them to health, and enable them to live the remainder of their lives in your awe, and to your glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* **PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION**

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this fellowship family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* PRAYER FOR IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

***O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; 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 and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.  
**Amen.**

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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