

Friday, January 28, 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. * 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 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.)

* **Psalm 54** NRSV

Hear my prayer, O God;

give ear to the words of my mouth.

Save me, O God, by your name,
and vindicate me by your might.

² Hear my prayer, O God;
give ear to the words of my mouth.

³ For the insolent have risen against me,
the ruthless seek my life;
they do not set God before them. *Selah*

⁴ But surely, God is my helper;
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

⁵ He will repay my enemies for their evil.
In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

⁶ With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

⁷ For he has delivered me from every trouble,
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

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

Hear my prayer, O God;

give ear to the words of my mouth.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1ST READING: Hebrews 10:11-25** CEB

¹¹ Every priest stands every day serving and offering the same sacrifices over and over, sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, he sat down at the right side of God. ¹³ Since then, he's waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for his feet, ¹⁴ because he perfected the people who are being made holy with one offering for all time.

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit affirms this when saying,

¹⁶ *This is the covenant that I will make with them.*

After these days, says the Lord,

I will place my laws in their hearts

and write them on their minds.

¹⁷ *And I won't remember their sins*

and their lawless behavior anymore.

¹⁸ When there is forgiveness for these things, there is no longer an offering for sin.

¹⁹ Brothers and sisters, we have confidence that we can enter the holy of holies by means of Jesus' blood, ²⁰ through a new and living way that he opened up for us through the

curtain, which is his body, ²¹ and we have a great high priest over God's house.

²² Therefore, let's draw near with a genuine heart with the certainty that our faith gives us, since our hearts are sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies are washed with pure water.

²³ Let's hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one who made the promises is reliable.

²⁴ And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. ²⁵ Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL READING: John 6:1-15** CEB

After this Jesus went across the Galilee Sea (that is, the Tiberias Sea). ² A large crowd followed him, because they had seen the miraculous signs he had done among the sick.

³ Jesus went up a mountain and sat there with his disciples.

⁴ It was nearly time for Passover, the Jewish festival.

⁵ Jesus looked up and saw the large crowd coming toward him. He asked Philip, "Where will we buy food to feed these people?" ⁶ Jesus said this to test him, for he already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip replied, "More than a half year's salary worth of food wouldn't be enough for each person to have even a little bit."

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, ⁹ "A youth here has five barley loaves and two fish. But what good is that for a crowd like this?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass there. They sat down, about five thousand of them.

¹¹ Then Jesus took the bread. When he had given thanks, he distributed it to those who were sitting there. He did the same with the fish, each getting as much as they wanted.

¹² When they had plenty to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather up the leftover pieces, so that nothing will be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets

with the pieces of the five barley loaves that had been left over by those who had eaten.

¹⁴ When the people saw that he had done a miraculous sign, they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world." ¹⁵ Jesus understood that they were about to come and force him to be their king, so he took refuge again, alone on a mountain.

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:** Thomas Aquinas

Thomas Aquinas is the greatest theologian of the high Middle Ages, and, next to Augustine, perhaps the greatest theologian in the history of Western Christianity. Born into a noble Italian family, probably in 1225, he entered the new Dominican Order of Preachers, and soon became an outstanding teacher in an age of intellectual ferment.

Thomas understood God's disclosure of his Name, in Exodus 3:14, "I Am Who I Am," to mean that God is Being, the Ultimate Reality from which everything else derives its being. The difference between God and the world is that God's essence is to exist, whereas all other beings derive their being from him by the act of creation.

Thomas died in 1274, just under fifty years of age. In 1369, on January 28, his remains were transferred to Toulouse.

* Holy Women, Holy Men

* **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 Aquinas**

Almighty God, you have enriched your Church with the singular learning and holiness of your servant Thomas Aquinas: Enlighten us more and more, we pray, by the disciplined thinking and teaching of Christian scholars, and deepen our devotion by the example of saintly lives; 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.**

* 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 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

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; 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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