

Saturday, January 8, 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 OF WISDOM**

Wisdom has built her house, setting up seven pillars.
She has prepared the food and wine and set her table.

***She has sent out her servants
to call out from the Heights above the city:***

"Let those who want enlightenment come.
Come, taste my bread and drink my spiced wine.

***Give up your foolishness and live,
And walk the path of understanding."***

If you are wise, your reward is wisdom;
If you teach the just, they grow in understanding.
***Wisdom begins with reverence for God,
and knowledge of the holy one is insight.***

* OSL

* **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 118:1-14** NRSV

***The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.***

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

³ Let the house of Aaron say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

⁴ Let those who fear the LORD say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

⁵ Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me in a broad place.

⁶ With the LORD on my side I do not fear.
What can mortals do to me?

⁷ The LORD is on my side to help me;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put confidence in mortals.

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put confidence in princes.

¹⁰ All nations surrounded me;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
¹¹ They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
¹² They surrounded me like bees;
they blazed like a fire of thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
¹³ I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

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

***The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: Colossians 1:15-23** NRSV

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones

or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— ²³ provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL: John 7:37-52** NRSV

³⁷ On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, ³⁸ and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” ³⁹ Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, “This is really the prophet.” ⁴¹ Others said, “This is the Messiah.” But some asked, “Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? ⁴² Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?” ⁴³ So there was a division in the crowd because of him. ⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

⁴⁵ Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why did you not arrest him?” ⁴⁶ The police answered, “Never has anyone spoken like this!” ⁴⁷ Then the Pharisees replied, “Surely you have not been deceived too, have you?” ⁴⁸ Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? ⁴⁹ But this crowd, which does not know the law—they are accursed.” ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, ⁵¹ “Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?” ⁵² They replied, “Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from 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*.

* 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

* **PRAYERS**

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

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

* 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.**

* FOR THE RIGHT USE OF GOD'S GIFTS

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must

one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* FOR FRUITFUL SEASONS

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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.**

* **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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