

Thursday, February 3, 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.***

PSALM 90:14

\* **MORNING CANTICLE OF JOY**

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands;

serve the LORD with gladness

and come before God's presence with a song.

***Know this: The LORD is God; the LORD has made us,***

***and we belong to the One who created us;***

***we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.***

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;

go into God's courts with praise;

give thanks to God and call upon God's Name.

***For the LORD is good;***

***God's mercy is everlasting;***

***and God's faithfulness endures from age to age.***

PSALM 100

\* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One\* be with you;

***And also with you.***

Let us pray:

***Dawn from on high,***

***Your light illumines all our days.***

***Awaken us to your visitations throughout this day.***

***Be merciful in us for the sake of others. Make us  
fearless when confronting injustice and need, that we  
may give you glory in the power of the Spirit. Amen.***

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\* **Psalm 70** NRSV

***Let all who seek you***

***rejoice and be glad in you.***

***Let those who love your salvation***

***say evermore, "God is great!"***

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.

O LORD, make haste to help me!

<sup>2</sup> Let those be put to shame and confusion

who seek my life.

Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor

who desire to hurt me.

<sup>3</sup> Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"

turn back because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup> Let all who seek you

rejoice and be glad in you.

Let those who love your salvation

say evermore, "God is great!"

<sup>5</sup> But I am poor and needy;

hasten to me, O God!

You are my help and my deliverer;

O LORD, do not delay!

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,

one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

***Let all who seek you***

***rejoice and be glad in you.***

***Let those who love your salvation***

***say evermore, "God is great!"***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: Hebrews 11:32-12:2** CEB

<sup>32</sup> What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. <sup>33</sup> Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies.

<sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead by resurrection.

Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection.

<sup>36</sup> But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison.

<sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and

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they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated. <sup>38</sup> The world didn't deserve them. They wandered around in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> All these people didn't receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. <sup>40</sup> God provided something better for us so they wouldn't be made perfect without us.

12 So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, <sup>2</sup> and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **2<sup>nd</sup> READING: John 6:60-71** CEB

<sup>60</sup> Many of his disciples who heard this said, "This message is harsh. Who can hear it?"

<sup>61</sup> Jesus knew that the disciples were grumbling about this and he said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> What if you were to see the Human One going up where he was before? <sup>63</sup> The Spirit is the one who gives life and the flesh doesn't help at all. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> Yet some of you don't believe." Jesus knew from the beginning who wouldn't believe and the one who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He said, "For this reason I said to you that none can come to me unless the Father enables them to do so." <sup>66</sup> At this, many of his disciples turned away and no longer accompanied him.

<sup>67</sup> Jesus asked the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?"

<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered, "Lord, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We believe and know that you are God's holy one."

<sup>70</sup> Jesus replied, "Didn't I choose you twelve? Yet one of you is a devil." <sup>71</sup> He was speaking of Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, for he, one of the Twelve, was going to betray him.

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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;*

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***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: ANSKAR**

Anskar (in Latin, Ansgarius) was a monk of Saxon family, born in 801 (the year after the crowning of Charlemagne). In 826, when King Harald of Denmark asked Charlemagne's successors for missionaries, Anskar led a group to Denmark, and a few years later to Sweden. Because of unsettled political conditions, his work ran into difficulties, and Anskar withdrew into Germany, where he served as first Archbishop of Hamburg. Later, however,

he helped to consecrate Gotbert, the first bishop of Sweden. The Church of Sweden honors him as its apostle, and he serves as symbol of the historic friendship and present-day connection between the Anglican Churches and the Church of Sweden. [\*by James Kiefer\*](#)

\* **PRAYERS**

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

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

\* **COLLECT: ANSKAR**

Almighty and everlasting God, who sent your servant Anskar as an apostle to the people of Scandinavia, and enabled him to lay a firm foundation for their conversion, though he did not see the results of his labors: Keep your Church from discouragement in the day of small things, knowing that when you have begun a good work you will bring it to a faithful conclusion; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

[\*by James Kiefer\*](#)

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\* PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to those we pray for this day, the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* PRAYERS FOR THE GREATER NJ CONFERENCE

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Greater New Jersey Conference to a sizable fellowship of faith. Bless Bishop Schol, our District Superintendents, other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP – adapted

\* PRAYERS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

**Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may**

***So move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; 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.***

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\* 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**

“But blessed are those who trust in the Lord  
and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.  
They are like trees planted along a riverbank,  
with roots that reach deep into the water.  
Such trees are not bothered by the heat  
or worried by long months of drought.  
Their leaves stay green,  
and they never stop producing fruit.” **Amen.** Jeremiah  
17:7-8

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## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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