

Tuesday, January 25, 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 PRAISE**

Come, let us sing to the Ho-ly One;
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
***Let us come before God's presence
with thanksgiving,
and raise a loud shout with psalms.***

For you, O God, are a great God,
you are great above all gods.

***In your hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are yours also.***

The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
***Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,
and kneel before God, our Maker.***

For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand.
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

PSALM 95:1-7

*** 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

* [Psalm 48](#) NRSV

Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God.

His holy mountain, ² beautiful in elevation,
is the joy of all the earth,

Mount Zion, in the far north,
the city of the great King.

³ Within its citadels God
has shown himself a sure defense.

⁴ Then the kings assembled,
they came on together.

⁵ As soon as they saw it, they were astounded;
they were in panic, they took to flight;

⁶ trembling took hold of them there,

pains as of a woman in labor,
⁷ as when an east wind shatters
the ships of Tarshish.

⁸ As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city of our God,
which God establishes forever. *Selah*

⁹ We ponder your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.

¹⁰ Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.

Your right hand is filled with victory.

¹¹ Let Mount Zion be glad,
let the towns of Judah rejoice
because of your judgments.

¹² Walk about Zion, go all around it,
count its towers,

¹³ consider well its ramparts;
go through its citadels,

that you may tell the next generation

¹⁴ that this is God,

our God forever and ever.

He will be our guide forever.

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

***Your name, O God, like your praise,
reaches to the ends of the earth.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: Hebrews 9:1-14** CEB

So then the first covenant had regulations for the priests' service and the holy place on earth. ² They pitched the first tent called the holy place. It contained the lampstand, the table, and the loaves of bread presented to God. ³ There was a tent behind the second curtain called the holy of holies. ⁴ It had the gold altar for incense and the chest containing the covenant, which was covered with gold on all sides. In the chest there was a gold jar containing manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. ⁵ Above the chest there were magnificent winged creatures casting their shadow over the seat of the chest, where sin is taken care of. Right now we can't talk about these things in detail. ⁶ When

these things have been prepared in this way, priests enter the first tent all the time as they perform their service.

⁷ But only the high priest enters the second tent once a year. He never does this without blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins the people committed in ignorance. ⁸ With this, the Holy Spirit is showing that the way into the holy place hadn't been revealed yet while the first tent was standing. ⁹ This is a symbol for the present time. It shows that the gifts and sacrifices that are being offered can't perfect the conscience of the one who is serving. ¹⁰ These are superficial regulations that are only about food, drink, and various ritual ways to wash with water. They are regulations that have been imposed until the time of the new order.

¹¹ But Christ has appeared as the high priest of the good things that have happened. He passed through the greater and more perfect meeting tent, which isn't made by human hands (that is, it's not a part of this world). ¹² He entered the holy of holies once for all by his own blood, not by the blood of goats or calves, securing our deliverance for all time. ¹³ If the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkled ashes of cows made spiritually contaminated people holy and clean, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Jesus wash our consciences clean from

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dead works in order to serve the living God? He offered himself to God through the eternal Spirit as a sacrifice without any flaw.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **2nd READING:** John 5:1-18 CEB

After this there was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ² In Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate in the north city wall is a pool with the Aramaic name Bethsaida. It had five covered porches, ³ and a crowd of people who were sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed sat there. ⁵ A certain man was there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶ When Jesus saw him lying there, knowing that he had already been there a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

⁷ The sick man answered him, “Sir, I don’t have anyone who can put me in the water when it is stirred up. When

I’m trying to get to it, someone else has gotten in ahead of me.”

⁸ Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.”

⁹ Immediately the man was well, and he picked up his mat and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath.

¹⁰ The Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, “It’s the Sabbath; you aren’t allowed to carry your mat.”

¹¹ He answered, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

¹² They inquired, “Who is this man who said to you, ‘Pick it up and walk’?” ¹³ The man who had been cured didn’t know who it was, because Jesus had slipped away from the crowd gathered there.

¹⁴ Later Jesus found him in the temple and said, “See! You have been made well. Don’t sin anymore in case something worse happens to you.” ¹⁵ The man went and proclaimed to the Jewish leaders that Jesus was the man who had made him well.

¹⁶ As a result, the Jewish leaders were harassing Jesus, since he had done these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “My Father is still working, and I am working too.”

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¹⁸ For this reason the Jewish leaders wanted even more to kill him—not only because he was doing away with the Sabbath but also because he called God his own Father, thereby making himself equal with God.

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

* **COMMEMORATION: Conversion of St. Paul**

The conversion of Paul, the "Apostle of the Gentiles," took place within a few years following the crucifixion of Jesus, when he was still known as "Saul," a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, a Pharisee, and a fervent opponent of the movement known as "the Way." According to the Acts of the Apostles, Paul approved of the stoning of Stephen. Following Stephen's martyrdom, Paul embarked upon a journey to Damascus to arrest some Christians there and bring them to Jerusalem for condemnation. It was on the road to Damascus that Paul was suddenly

encountered by the risen Christ. This conversion experience is related three times in Acts (9: 1-19; 22: 5-16, and 26: 12-18). Although each of these accounts is narrated in a slightly different manner, the same basic sequence of events is consistently reported: Paul sees a great light and hears a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Upon asking, "Who are you, Lord?", he hears the reply, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting." With that, Paul is directed by the risen Lord to continue on his journey. Now, rather than arresting followers of "the Way," he begins his ministry of proclaiming the Gospel.

* **PRAYERS**

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

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

* **COLLECT: Conversion of St. Paul**

O God, who by the preaching of your apostle Paul has caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful

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to you by following his holy teaching; 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.**

* For All the Saints

* 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.**

* PRAYERS FOR OUR COUNTRY

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly pray to you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our

trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* FOR ALL PLACES AND PREDICAMENTS

O God, the creator and preserver of all mankind, we humbly, earnestly request of you for people in all places and all predicaments; that you would be gracious to make your ways known to them, your saving health to all nations.

More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith - in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life.

Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate, that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their many necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a blessed outcome from all their afflictions. And this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer – adapted

* **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**

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 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.**”

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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