

Wednesday, January 12, 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 Second Song of Isaiah*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord,
and he will have compassion,
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,

Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating,

So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:6-11

* **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

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **PSALM 119:1-24** NRSV

***With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.***

¹ Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD.

² Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,

³ who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways.

⁴ You have commanded your precepts

to be kept diligently.

⁵ O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.

⁸ I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

⁹ How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.

¹¹ I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.

¹² Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.

¹³ With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.

¹⁴ I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.

¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

¹⁷ Deal bountifully with your servant,
so that I may live and observe your word.

¹⁸ Open my eyes, so that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.

¹⁹ I live as an alien in the land;
do not hide your commandments from me.

²⁰ My soul is consumed with longing
for your ordinances at all times.

²¹ You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,
who wander from your commandments;

²² take away from me their scorn and contempt,
for I have kept your decrees.

²³ Even though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant will meditate on your statutes.

²⁴ Your decrees are my delight,
they are my counselors.

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

***With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: Hebrews 2:11-18** CEB

¹¹ This is because the one who makes people holy and the people who are being made holy all come from one source. That is why Jesus isn't ashamed to call them brothers and sisters when he says,

¹² *I will publicly announce your name to my brothers and sisters.*

I will praise you in the middle of the assembly.

¹³ He also says,

I will rely on him.

And also,

Here I am with the children whom God has given to me.

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he also shared the same things in the same way. He did this to destroy the one who holds the power over death—the devil—by dying. ¹⁵ He set free those who were held in slavery their entire lives by their fear of death. ¹⁶ Of course, he isn't trying to help angels, but rather he's helping Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ Therefore, he had to

be made like his brothers and sisters in every way. This was so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, in order to wipe away the sins of the people. ¹⁸ He's able to help those who are being tempted, since he himself experienced suffering when he was tempted.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL: John 1:29-42** CEB

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one about whom I said, 'He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.' ³¹ Even I didn't recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel." ³² John testified, "I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. ³³ Even I didn't recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'The one on whom you see

the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ I have seen and testified that this one is God's Son."

³⁵ The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus walking along he said, "Look! The Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, "What are you looking for?"

They said, "Rabbi (which is translated *Teacher*), where are you staying?"

³⁹ He replied, "Come and see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.

⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated *Christ*).

⁴² He led him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which is translated *Peter*).

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

* **PRAYERS**

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

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

* 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.***

* PRAYER FOR THE AGED

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

* FOR THE ABSENT

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly pray you graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your

Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; 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 OF THE WEEK**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made,

and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **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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