

Friday, February 18, 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 102:1-14](#) NRSV

Incline your ear to me;

answer me speedily in the day when I call.

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD;

let my cry come to you.

² Do not hide your face from me

in the day of my distress.

Incline your ear to me;

answer me speedily in the day when I call.

³ For my days pass away like smoke,

and my bones burn like a furnace.

⁴ My heart is stricken and withered like grass;

I am too wasted to eat my bread.

⁵ Because of my loud groaning

my bones cling to my skin.

⁶ I am like an owl of the wilderness,

like a little owl of the waste places.

⁷ I lie awake;

I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.

⁸ All day long my enemies taunt me;

those who deride me use my name for a curse.

⁹ For I eat ashes like bread,

and mingle tears with my drink,

¹⁰ because of your indignation and anger;

for you have lifted me up and thrown me aside.

¹¹ My days are like an evening shadow;

I wither away like grass.

¹² But you, O LORD, are enthroned forever;

your name endures to all generations.

¹³ You will rise up and have compassion on Zion,

for it is time to favor it;

the appointed time has come.

¹⁴ For your servants hold its stones dear,

and have pity on its dust.

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

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

Incline your ear to me;

answer me speedily in the day when I call.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1ST READING: 1 John 3:1-10** CEB

See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are!

Because the world didn't recognize him, it doesn't recognize us.

² Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we'll see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves even as he is pure. ⁴ Every person who practices sin commits an act of rebellion, and sin is rebellion. ⁵ You know that he appeared to take away sins, and there is no sin in him. ⁶ Every person who remains in relationship to him does not sin. Any person who sins has not seen him or known him.

⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you. The person who practices righteousness is righteous, in the same way that Jesus is righteous. ⁸ The person who practices sin belongs to the devil, because the devil has been sinning since the beginning. God's Son appeared for this purpose: to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Those born from God don't practice sin because God's DNA remains in them. They can't sin because they are born from God. ¹⁰ This is how God's children and the devil's children are apparent: everyone who doesn't practice righteousness is not from God, including the person who doesn't love a brother or sister.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL READING: John 10:31-42** CEB

Again the Jewish opposition picked up stones in order to stone him. ³² Jesus responded, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of those works do you stone me?"

³³ The Jewish opposition answered, "We don't stone you for a good work but for insulting God. You are human, yet you make yourself out to be God."

³⁴ Jesus replied, "Isn't it written in your Law, *I have said, you are gods?* ³⁵ Scripture calls those to whom God's word came *gods*, and scripture can't be abolished. ³⁶ So how can you say that the one whom the Father has made holy and sent into the world insults God because he said, 'I am God's Son'? ³⁷ If I don't do the works of my Father, don't believe me. ³⁸ But if I do them, and you don't believe me, believe the works so that you can know and recognize that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." ³⁹ Again, they wanted to arrest him, but he escaped from them.

⁴⁰ Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John had baptized at first, and he stayed there. ⁴¹ Many people came to him. "John didn't do any miraculous signs,"

they said, “but everything John said about this man was true.” ⁴² Many believed in Jesus there.

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:** Martin Luther

Brother Martin of Erfurt, born in 1483 of German peasant stock, was a monk (more exactly, a regular canon) of the Order of Saint Augustine, and a Doctor of Theology. In his day, the Church was at a spiritual low. Church offices were openly sold to the highest bidder, and not nearly enough was being done to combat the notion that forgiveness of sins was likewise for sale.

Indeed, many Christians, both clergy and laity, were most inadequately instructed in Christian doctrine. Startling as it seems to us today, there were then no seminaries for the education of the clergy. There were monastic schools, but they concentrated on the education of their own monks. Parish priests, ordinarily having no monastic background, were in need of instruction themselves, and in no way prepared to instruct their congregations. Brother Martin set out to remedy this. He wrote a simple catechism for the instruction of the laity which is still in use today, as is his translation of the Scriptures into the common tongue. His energy as a writer was prodigious. From 1517, when he first began to write for the public, until his death, he wrote on the average one book a fortnight.

[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:** Martin Luther

Almighty God, in whose kingdom servants are leaders, we give you thanks and praise for the memory of your servant Martin Luther, who sensed the flow of your desire for the world

and called us to new ways of worship and being: Let our will be caught by the tide of your love that creation might be renewed and all your people live in peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

* For All the Saints

* 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 THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS TODAY

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may

your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; 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 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

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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**

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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