

Saturday, February 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 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:

***New every morning is your love, great God of light,  
and all day long you are working for good in the  
world. Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live  
peacefully with our neighbors, and to devote each day  
to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.***

\* **Psalm 87** NRSV

***This one and that one were born in it;  
for the Most High himself will establish it.***

<sup>1</sup> On the holy mount stands the city he founded;

<sup>2</sup> the LORD loves the gates of Zion  
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

<sup>3</sup> Glorious things are spoken of you,  
O city of God. *Selah*

<sup>4</sup> Among those who know me I mention Rahab and  
Babylon;  
Philistia too, and Tyre, with Ethiopia -  
“This one was born there,” they say.

<sup>5</sup> And of Zion it shall be said,  
“This one and that one were born in it”;  
for the Most High himself will establish it.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD records, as he registers the peoples,  
“This one was born there.” *Selah*

<sup>7</sup> Singers and dancers alike say,  
“All my springs are in you.”

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

***This one and that one were born in it;  
for the Most High himself will establish it.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: Romans 14:1-23** CEB

Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. <sup>2</sup> One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them.

<sup>4</sup> Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand).

<sup>5</sup> One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions.

<sup>6</sup> Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, because they thank God. And those who don't eat, don't eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too. <sup>7</sup> We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God.

<sup>9</sup> This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be

Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup> But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup> Because it is written,

*As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God.* <sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

<sup>13</sup> So stop judging each other. Instead, this is what you should decide: never put a stumbling block or obstacle in the way of your brother or sister. <sup>14</sup> I know and I'm convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is wrong to eat in itself. But if someone thinks something is wrong to eat, it becomes wrong for that person. <sup>15</sup> If your brother or sister is upset by your food, you are no longer walking in love. Don't let your food destroy someone for whom Christ died.

<sup>16</sup> And don't let something you consider to be good be criticized as wrong. <sup>17</sup> God's kingdom isn't about eating food and drinking but about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> Whoever serves Christ this way pleases God and gets human approval.

<sup>19</sup> So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up. <sup>20</sup> Don't destroy what God has done because of food. All food is acceptable, but it's a

bad thing if it trips someone else. <sup>21</sup> It's a good thing not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything that trips your brother or sister. <sup>22</sup> Keep the belief that you have to yourself—it's between you and God. People are blessed who don't convict themselves by the things they approve. <sup>23</sup> But those who have doubts are convicted if they go ahead and eat, because they aren't acting on the basis of faith. Everything that isn't based on faith is sin.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: John 8:47-59** CEB

<sup>47</sup> God's children listen to God's words. You don't listen to me because you aren't God's children."

<sup>48</sup> The Jewish opposition answered, "We were right to say that you are a Samaritan and have a demon, weren't we?"

<sup>49</sup> "I don't have a demon," Jesus replied. "But I honor my Father and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup> I'm not trying to bring glory to myself. There's one who is seeking to glorify me, and

he's the judge. <sup>51</sup> I assure you that whoever keeps my word will never die."

<sup>52</sup> The Jewish opposition said to Jesus, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham and the prophets died, yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never die.'

<sup>53</sup> Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died and the prophets died, so who do you make yourself out to be?"

<sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is meaningless. My Father, who you say is your God, is the one who glorifies me. <sup>55</sup> You don't know him, but I do. If I said I didn't know him, I would be like you, a liar. But I do know him, and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see my day. He saw it and was happy."

<sup>57</sup> "You aren't even 50 years old!" the Jewish opposition replied. "How can you say that you have seen Abraham?"

<sup>58</sup> "I assure you," Jesus replied, "before Abraham was, I Am." <sup>59</sup> So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and left the temple.

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)*

\* **PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE**

*Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort  
and relieve your sick servants, and give your power  
of healing to those who minister to their needs, that  
those for whom our prayers are offered may be  
strengthened in their weakness and have confidence  
in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord,*

*who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

\* FOR THE HARVEST OF LANDS AND WATERS

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with abundance: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* PRAYERS FOR THE POOR AND THE NEGLECTED

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, 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

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**

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always. **Amen**

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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