

Wednesday, February 23, 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:

We give you hearty thanks for the rest of the past night and for the gift of a new day, with its opportunities of pleasing you. Grant that we may so pass its hours in the perfect freedom of your service, that at eventide we may again give thanks unto you. Amen.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **Psalm 119:145-176** NRSV

***Yet you are near, O LORD,
and all your commandments are true.***

¹⁴⁵ With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD.

I will keep your statutes.

¹⁴⁶ I cry to you; save me,

that I may observe your decrees.

¹⁴⁷ I rise before dawn and cry for help;

I put my hope in your words.

¹⁴⁸ My eyes are awake before each watch of the night,

that I may meditate on your promise.

¹⁴⁹ In your steadfast love hear my voice;

O LORD, in your justice preserve my life.

¹⁵⁰ Those who persecute me with evil purpose draw near;

they are far from your law.

¹⁵¹ Yet you are near, O LORD,

and all your commandments are true.

¹⁵² Long ago I learned from your decrees

that you have established them forever.

Yet you are near, O LORD,

and all your commandments are true.

¹⁵³ Look on my misery and rescue me,

for I do not forget your law.

¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause and redeem me;

give me life according to your promise.

¹⁵⁵ Salvation is far from the wicked,

for they do not seek your statutes.

¹⁵⁶ Great is your mercy, O LORD;

give me life according to your justice.

¹⁵⁷ Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,

yet I do not swerve from your decrees.

¹⁵⁸ I look at the faithless with disgust,

because they do not keep your commands.

¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love your precepts;

preserve my life according to your steadfast love.

¹⁶⁰ The sum of your word is truth;

and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.

¹⁶¹ Princes persecute me without cause,
but my heart stands in awe of your words.

¹⁶² I rejoice at your word
like one who finds great spoil.

¹⁶³ I hate and abhor falsehood,
but I love your law.

¹⁶⁴ Seven times a day I praise you
for your righteous ordinances.

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love your law;
nothing can make them stumble.

¹⁶⁶ I hope for your salvation, O LORD,
and I fulfill your commandments.

¹⁶⁷ My soul keeps your decrees;
I love them exceedingly.

¹⁶⁸ I keep your precepts and decrees,
for all my ways are before you.

***My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.***

¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word.

¹⁷⁰ Let my supplication come before you;

deliver me according to your promise.

¹⁷¹ My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.

¹⁷² My tongue will sing of your promise,
for all your commandments are right.

¹⁷³ Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.

¹⁷⁴ I long for your salvation, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.

¹⁷⁵ Let me live that I may praise you,
and let your ordinances help me.

¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep;
seek out your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.

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

***My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: 1 John 5:1-12** CEB

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born from God. Whoever loves someone who is a parent loves the child born to the parent. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep God's commandments. ³ This is the love of God: we keep God's commandments. God's commandments are not difficult, ⁴ because everyone who is born from God defeats the world. And this is the victory that has defeated the world: our faith. ⁵ Who defeats the world? Isn't it the one who believes that Jesus is God's Son?

⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood: Jesus Christ. Not by water only but by water and blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷ The three are testifying— ⁸ the Spirit, the water, and the blood—and the three are united in agreement. ⁹ If we receive human testimony, God's testimony is greater, because this is what God testified: he has testified about his Son. ¹⁰ The one who believes in God's Son has the testimony within; the one who doesn't believe God has made God a liar, because that one has not believed the testimony that God gave about his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in his

Son. ¹² The one who has the Son has life. The one who doesn't have God's Son does not have life.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL: John 11:45-54** CEB

⁴⁵ Therefore, many of the Jews who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and Pharisees called together the council and said, "What are we going to do? This man is doing many miraculous signs! ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our people."

⁴⁹ One of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, told them, "You don't know anything! ⁵⁰ You don't see that it is better for you that one man die for the people rather

than the whole nation be destroyed.”⁵¹ He didn’t say this on his own. As high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus would soon die for the nation—⁵² and not only for the nation. Jesus would also die so that God’s children scattered everywhere would be gathered together as one.⁵³ From that day on they plotted to kill him.

⁵⁴ Therefore, Jesus was no longer active in public ministry among the Jewish leaders. Instead, he left Jerusalem and went to a place near the wilderness, to a city called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples.

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*.

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* **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)*

* FOR HEALTH OF BODY AND SOUL

For those we have lifted up today, may God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

* FOR GUIDANCE

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see

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light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* FOR FRUITFUL SEASONS

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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 Lord, you have taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts your greatest gift, which is love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue, without which whoever lives is accounted dead before you. Grant this for the sake of your only Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ, the
extravagant love of God, and the intimate friendship of the
Holy Spirit, be with all of you. **Amen.**

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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