

Saturday, March 19, 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 75** NRSV

***We give thanks to you, O God;  
we give thanks; your name is near.***

<sup>1</sup> We give thanks to you, O God;  
we give thanks; your name is near.

People tell of your wondrous deeds.

<sup>2</sup> At the set time that I appoint  
I will judge with equity.

<sup>3</sup> When the earth totters, with all its inhabitants,  
it is I who keep its pillars steady. *Selah*

<sup>4</sup> I say to the boastful, "Do not boast,"  
and to the wicked, "Do not lift up your horn;

<sup>5</sup> do not lift up your horn on high,  
or speak with insolent neck."

<sup>6</sup> For not from the east or from the west  
and not from the wilderness comes lifting up;

<sup>7</sup> but it is God who executes judgment,  
putting down one and lifting up another.

<sup>8</sup> For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup  
with foaming wine, well mixed;

he will pour a draught from it,  
and all the wicked of the earth  
shall drain it down to the dregs.

<sup>9</sup> But I will rejoice forever;  
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

<sup>10</sup> All the horns of the wicked I will cut off,  
but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

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

***We give thanks to you, O God;  
we give thanks; your name is near.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 1 Corinthians 7:10-24** CEB

<sup>10</sup> I'm passing on the Lord's command to those who are married: A wife shouldn't leave her husband, <sup>11</sup> but if she does leave him, then she should stay single or be reconciled to her husband. And a man shouldn't divorce his wife.

<sup>12</sup> I'm telling everyone else (the Lord didn't say this specifically): If a believer has a wife who doesn't believe, and she agrees to live with him, then he shouldn't divorce her. <sup>13</sup> If a woman has a husband who doesn't believe and he agrees to live with her, then she shouldn't divorce him.

<sup>14</sup> The husband who doesn't believe belongs to God

because of his wife, and the wife who doesn't believe belongs to God because of her husband. Otherwise, your children would be contaminated by the world, but now they are spiritually set apart. <sup>15</sup> But if a spouse who doesn't believe chooses to leave, then let them leave. The brother or sister isn't tied down in these circumstances. God has called you to peace. <sup>16</sup> How do you know as a wife if you will save your husband? Or how do you know as a husband if you will save your wife?

<sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, each person should live the kind of life that the Lord assigned when he called each one. This is what I teach in all the churches. <sup>18</sup> If someone was circumcised when called, he shouldn't try to reverse it. If someone wasn't circumcised when he was called, he shouldn't be circumcised. <sup>19</sup> Circumcision is nothing; not being circumcised is nothing. What matters is keeping God's commandments. <sup>20</sup> Each person should stay in the situation they were in when they were called. <sup>21</sup> If you were a slave when you were called, don't let it bother you. But if you are actually able to be free, take advantage of the opportunity. <sup>22</sup> Anyone who was a slave when they were called by the Lord has the status of being the Lord's free person. In the same way, anyone who was a free person when they were called is Christ's slave. <sup>23</sup> You

were bought and paid for. Don't become slaves of people.

<sup>24</sup> So then, brothers and sisters, each of you should stay with God in the situation you were in when you were called.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Mark 5:1-20** CEB

Jesus and his disciples came to the other side of the lake, to the region of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup> As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out of the tombs. <sup>3</sup> This man lived among the tombs, and no one was ever strong enough to restrain him, even with a chain. <sup>4</sup> He had been secured many times with leg irons and chains, but he broke the chains and smashed the leg irons. No one was tough enough to control him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day in the tombs and the hills, he would howl and cut himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from far away, he ran and knelt before him, <sup>7</sup> shouting, "What have

you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?  
Swear to God that you won't torture me!"

<sup>8</sup> He said this because Jesus had already commanded him, "Unclean spirit, come out of the man!"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

He responded, "Legion is my name, because we are many." <sup>10</sup> They pleaded with Jesus not to send them out of that region.

<sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. <sup>12</sup> "Send us into the pigs!" they begged. "Let us go into the pigs!"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus gave them permission, so the unclean spirits left the man and went into the pigs. Then the herd of about two thousand pigs rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

<sup>14</sup> Those who tended the pigs ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. People came to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup> They came to Jesus and saw the man who used to be demon-possessed. They saw the very man who had been filled with many demons sitting there fully dressed and completely sane, and they were filled with awe. <sup>16</sup> Those who had actually seen what had happened to the demon-possessed man told the others

about the pigs. <sup>17</sup> Then they pleaded with Jesus to leave their region.

<sup>18</sup> While he was climbing into the boat, the one who had been demon-possessed pleaded with Jesus to let him come along as one of his disciples. <sup>19</sup> But Jesus wouldn't allow it. "Go home to your own people," Jesus said, "and tell them what the Lord has done for you and how he has shown you mercy." <sup>20</sup> The man went away and began to proclaim in the Ten Cities all that Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

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 UNEMPLOYED *(adapted)*

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all

who are truly in need may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

\* PRAYERS FOR UNITY OF THE CHURCH

***O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and harmony; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; 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

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, 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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