

Thursday, March 24, 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.

PSALM 90:14

* **MORNING CANTICLE OF JOY**

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands;

serve the LORD with gladness

and come before God's presence with a song.

Know this: The LORD is God; the LORD has made us,

and we belong to the One who created us;

we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;

go into God's courts with praise;

give thanks to God and call upon God's Name.

For the LORD is good;

God's mercy is everlasting;

and God's faithfulness endures from age to age.

PSALM 100

* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Dawn from on high,

Your light illumines all our days.

Awaken us to your visitations throughout this day.

***Be merciful in us for the sake of others. Make us
fearless when confronting injustice and need, that we
may give you glory in the power of the Spirit. Amen.***

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* [Psalm 83](#) NRSV

***Let them know that you alone,
whose name is the LORD,
are the Most High over all the earth.***

¹ O God, do not keep silence;
do not hold your peace or be still, O God!
² Even now your enemies are in tumult;
those who hate you have raised their heads.
³ They lay crafty plans against your people;
they consult together against those you protect.
⁴ They say, “Come, let us wipe them out as a nation;
let the name of Israel be remembered no more.”
⁵ They conspire with one accord;
against you they make a covenant—
⁶ the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,
Moab and the Hagrites,
⁷ Gebal and Ammon and Amalek,
Philistia with the inhabitants of Tyre;
⁸ Assyria also has joined them;
they are the strong arm of the children of Lot. *Selah*
⁹ Do to them as you did to Midian,
as to Sisera and Jabin at the Wadi Kishon,
¹⁰ who were destroyed at En-dor,

who became dung for the ground.

¹¹ Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,
all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,
¹² who said, “Let us take the pastures of God
for our own possession.”
¹³ O my God, make them like whirling dust,
like chaff before the wind.
¹⁴ As fire consumes the forest,
as the flame sets the mountains ablaze,
¹⁵ so pursue them with your tempest
and terrify them with your hurricane.
¹⁶ Fill their faces with shame,
so that they may seek your name, O LORD.
¹⁷ Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever;
let them perish in disgrace.
¹⁸ Let them know that you alone,
whose name is the LORD,
are the Most High over all the earth.

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

***Let them know that you alone,
whose name is the LORD,
are the Most High over all the earth.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: 1 Corinthians 9:1-15** CEB

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Haven't I seen Jesus our Lord? Aren't you my work in the Lord? ² If I'm not an apostle to others, at least I am to you! You are the seal that shows I'm an apostle. ³ This is my defense against those who criticize me. ⁴ Don't we have the right to eat and drink? ⁵ Don't we have the right to travel with a wife who believes like the rest of the apostles, the Lord's brothers, and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only I and Barnabas who don't have the right to not work for our living? ⁷ Who joins the army and pays their own way? Who plants a vineyard and doesn't eat its fruit? Who shepherds a flock and doesn't drink its milk? ⁸ I'm not saying these things just based on common sense, am I? Doesn't the Law itself say these things? ⁹ In Moses' Law it's written: *You will not muzzle the ox when it is threshing.* Is God worried about oxen, ¹⁰ or did he say this entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake because the one who plows and the one who threshes should each do so with the hope of sharing the produce. ¹¹ If we sowed spiritual things in you,

is it so much to ask to harvest some material things from you?

¹² If others have these rights over you, don't we deserve them all the more? However, we haven't made use of this right, but we put up with everything so we don't put any obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. ¹³ Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get to eat food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share part of what is sacrificed on the altar? ¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who preach the gospel should get their living from the gospel. ¹⁵ But I haven't taken advantage of this. And I'm not writing this so that it will be done for me. It's better for me to die than to lose my right to brag about this!

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **2nd READING: Mark 6:30-46** CEB

³⁰ The apostles returned to Jesus and told him everything they had done and taught. ³¹ Many people were coming

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and going, so there was no time to eat. He said to the apostles, "Come by yourselves to a secluded place and rest for a while." ³² They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place.

³³ Many people saw them leaving and recognized them, so they ran ahead from all the cities and arrived before them. ³⁴ When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things.

³⁵ Late in the day, his disciples came to him and said, "This is an isolated place, and it's already late in the day.

³⁶ Send them away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy something to eat for themselves."

³⁷ He replied, "You give them something to eat."

But they said to him, "Should we go off and buy bread worth almost eight months' pay and give it to them to eat?"

³⁸ He said to them, "How much bread do you have? Take a look."

After checking, they said, "Five loaves of bread and two fish."

³⁹ He directed the disciples to seat all the people in groups as though they were having a banquet on the green grass. ⁴⁰ They sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

⁴¹ He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke the loaves into pieces, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² Everyone ate until they were full. ⁴³ They filled twelve baskets with the leftover pieces of bread and fish. ⁴⁴ About five thousand had eaten.

⁴⁵ Right then, Jesus made his disciples get into a boat and go ahead to the other side of the lake, toward Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ After saying good-bye to them, Jesus went up onto a mountain to pray.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

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* **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,***

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***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, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to those we pray for this day, the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

* PRAYERS FOR THE OPPRESSED

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as

their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

* PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who sets the solitary in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them, we ask you, every root of bitterness, the desire of vainglory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who have become family. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kind hearted one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

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* **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**

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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**

“But blessed are those who trust in the Lord
and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.
They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.
Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.
Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit.” **Amen.** Jeremiah 17:7-8

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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