

Thursday, March 31, 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.***

3/31/22

\* **Psalm 69:1-18** NRSV

***O God, you know my folly;  
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.***

<sup>1</sup> Save me, O God,  
for the waters have come up to my neck.  
<sup>2</sup> I sink in deep mire,  
where there is no foothold;  
I have come into deep waters,  
and the flood sweeps over me.  
<sup>3</sup> I am weary with my crying;  
my throat is parched.  
My eyes grow dim  
with waiting for my God.  
<sup>4</sup> More in number than the hairs of my head  
are those who hate me without cause;  
many are those who would destroy me,  
my enemies who accuse me falsely.  
What I did not steal  
must I now restore?  
<sup>5</sup> O God, you know my folly;  
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.  
<sup>6</sup> Do not let those who hope in you be put to shame  
because of me,

O Lord GOD of hosts;  
do not let those who seek you be dishonored because of  
me,  
O God of Israel.  
<sup>7</sup> It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,  
that shame has covered my face.  
<sup>8</sup> I have become a stranger to my kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.  
<sup>9</sup> It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;  
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.  
<sup>10</sup> When I humbled my soul with fasting,  
they insulted me for doing so.  
<sup>11</sup> When I made sackcloth my clothing,  
I became a byword to them.  
<sup>12</sup> I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.  
<sup>13</sup> But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD.  
At an acceptable time, O God,  
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.  
With your faithful help <sup>14</sup> rescue me  
from sinking in the mire;  
let me be delivered from my enemies  
and from the deep waters.

3/31/22

<sup>15</sup> Do not let the flood sweep over me,  
or the deep swallow me up,  
or the Pit close its mouth over me.

<sup>16</sup> Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;  
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

<sup>17</sup> Do not hide your face from your servant,  
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.

<sup>18</sup> Draw near to me, redeem me,  
set me free because of my enemies.

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

***O God, you know my folly;  
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26** CEB

<sup>12</sup> Christ is just like the human body—a body is a unit and has many parts; and all the parts of the body are one body, even though there are many. <sup>13</sup> We were all

baptized by one Spirit into one body, whether Jew or Greek, or slave or free, and we all were given one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup> Certainly the body isn't one part but many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not a hand," does that mean it's not part of the body? <sup>16</sup> If the ear says, "I'm not part of the body because I'm not an eye," does that mean it's not part of the body? <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, what would happen to the hearing? And if the whole body were an ear, what would happen to the sense of smell? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God has placed each one of the parts in the body just like he wanted. <sup>19</sup> If all were one and the same body part, what would happen to the body? <sup>20</sup> But as it is, there are many parts but one body. <sup>21</sup> So the eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you," or in turn, the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." <sup>22</sup> Instead, the parts of the body that people think are the weakest are the most necessary. <sup>23</sup> The parts of the body that we think are less honorable are the ones we honor the most. The private parts of our body that aren't presentable are the ones that are given the most dignity. <sup>24</sup> The parts of our body that are presentable don't need this. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the part with less honor <sup>25</sup> so that there won't be division in the body and so the

3/31/22

parts might have mutual concern for each other. <sup>26</sup> If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part gets the glory, all the parts celebrate with it.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **2<sup>nd</sup> READING: Mark 8:27-9:1** CEB

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went into the villages near Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

<sup>28</sup> They told him, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup> He asked them, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Christ.” <sup>30</sup> Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: “The Human One must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the legal experts, and be killed,

and then, after three days, rise from the dead.” <sup>32</sup> He said this plainly. But Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him. <sup>33</sup> Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, then sternly corrected Peter: “Get behind me, Satan. You are not thinking God’s thoughts but human thoughts.”

<sup>34</sup> After calling the crowd together with his disciples, Jesus said to them, “All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. <sup>35</sup> All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me and because of the good news will save them. <sup>36</sup> Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? <sup>37</sup> What will people give in exchange for their lives? <sup>38</sup> Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Human One will be ashamed of that person when he comes in the Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

<sup>9</sup> <sup>1</sup> Jesus continued, “I assure you that some standing here won’t die before they see God’s kingdom arrive in power.”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

3/31/22

\* 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*.

\* **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.*

3/31/22

***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)*

\* **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 A PERSON IN TROUBLE**

***O merciful Father, who has taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity upon the sorrows of you servants for whom our prayers are offered. Remember them, O Lord, in mercy, nourish their souls with patience, comfort them with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon them, and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\* **FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH**

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for all future generations. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

3/31/22

\* 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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; 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

"But blessed are those who trust in the Lord

3/31/22

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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