

Wednesday, March 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 119:97-120](#) NRSV

***Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.***

<sup>97</sup> Oh, how I love your law!

It is my meditation all day long.

<sup>98</sup> Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is always with me.

<sup>99</sup> I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your decrees are my meditation.

<sup>100</sup> I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts.

<sup>101</sup> I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.

<sup>102</sup> I do not turn away from your ordinances,  
for you have taught me.

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

<sup>104</sup> Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup> I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to observe your righteous ordinances.

<sup>107</sup> I am severely afflicted;  
give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

<sup>108</sup> Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD,  
and teach me your ordinances.

<sup>109</sup> I hold my life in my hand continually,  
but I do not forget your law.

<sup>110</sup> The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
but I do not stray from your precepts.

<sup>111</sup> Your decrees are my heritage forever;  
they are the joy of my heart.

<sup>112</sup> I incline my heart to perform your statutes  
forever, to the end.

<sup>113</sup> I hate the double-minded,  
but I love your law.

<sup>114</sup> You are my hiding place and my shield;

I hope in your word.

- <sup>115</sup> Go away from me, you evildoers,  
that I may keep the commandments of my God.
- <sup>116</sup> Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,  
and let me not be put to shame in my hope.
- <sup>117</sup> Hold me up, that I may be safe  
and have regard for your statutes continually.
- <sup>118</sup> You spurn all who go astray from your statutes;  
for their cunning is in vain.
- <sup>119</sup> All the wicked of the earth you count as dross;  
therefore I love your decrees.
- <sup>120</sup> My flesh trembles for fear of you,  
and I am afraid of your judgments.

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

***Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light to my path.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13** CEB

Now concerning meat that has been sacrificed to a false god: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge

makes people arrogant, but love builds people up. <sup>2</sup> If anyone thinks they know something, they don't yet know as much as they should know. <sup>3</sup> But if someone loves God, then they are known by God.

<sup>4</sup> So concerning the actual food involved in these sacrifices to false gods, we know that a false god isn't anything in this world, and that there is no God except for the one God. <sup>5</sup> Granted, there are so-called "gods," in heaven and on the earth, as there are many gods and many lords. <sup>6</sup> However, for us believers,

There is one God the Father.

All things come from him, and we belong to him.

And there is one Lord Jesus Christ.

All things exist through him, and we live through him.

<sup>7</sup> But not everybody knows this. Some are eating this food as though it really is food sacrificed to a real idol, because they were used to idol worship until now. Their conscience is weak because it has been damaged. <sup>8</sup> Food won't bring us close to God. We're not missing out if we don't eat, and we don't have any advantage if we do eat. <sup>9</sup> But watch out or else this freedom of yours might be a problem for those who are weak. <sup>10</sup> Suppose someone sees you (the person who has knowledge) eating in an idol's temple. Won't the

person with a weak conscience be encouraged to eat the meat sacrificed to false gods? <sup>11</sup> The weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed by your knowledge. <sup>12</sup> You sin against Christ if you sin against your brothers and sisters and hurt their weak consciences this way. <sup>13</sup> This is why, if food causes the downfall of my brother or sister, I won't eat meat ever again, or else I may cause my brother or sister to fall.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Mark 6:13-29** CEB

<sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons, and they anointed many sick people with olive oil and healed them.

<sup>14</sup> Herod the king heard about these things, because the name of Jesus had become well-known. Some were saying, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead, and this is why miraculous powers are at work through him." <sup>15</sup> Others were saying, "He is Elijah." Still others were saying, "He is a

prophet like one of the ancient prophets." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard these rumors, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised to life."

<sup>17</sup> He said this because Herod himself had arranged to have John arrested and put in prison because of Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother Philip. Herod had married her, <sup>18</sup> but John told Herod, "It's against the law for you to marry your brother's wife!" <sup>19</sup> So Herodias had it in for John. She wanted to kill him, but she couldn't. <sup>20</sup> This was because Herod respected John. He regarded him as a righteous and holy person, so he protected him. John's words greatly confused Herod, yet he enjoyed listening to him.

<sup>21</sup> Finally, the time was right. It was on one of Herod's birthdays, when he had prepared a feast for his high-ranking officials and military officers and Galilee's leading residents.

<sup>22</sup> Herod's daughter Herodias came in and danced, thrilling Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the young woman, "Ask me whatever you wish, and I will give it to you."

<sup>23</sup> Then he swore to her, "Whatever you ask I will give to you, even as much as half of my kingdom."

<sup>24</sup> She left the banquet hall and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?"

"John the Baptist's head," Herodias replied.

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<sup>25</sup> Hurrying back to the ruler, she made her request: "I want you to give me John the Baptist's head on a plate, right this minute." <sup>26</sup> Although the king was upset, because of his solemn pledge and his guests, he didn't want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> So he ordered a guard to bring John's head. The guard went to the prison, cut off John's head, <sup>28</sup> brought his head on a plate, and gave it to the young woman, and she gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When John's disciples heard what had happened, they came and took his dead body and laid it in a tomb.

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 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.**

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\* 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

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.***

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\* **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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