

Wednesday, March 30, 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 109:1-4, 20-30](#) NRSV

***Help me, O LORD my God!***

***Save me according to your steadfast love.***

<sup>1</sup> Do not be silent, O God of my praise.

<sup>2</sup> For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me,  
speaking against me with lying tongues.

<sup>3</sup> They beset me with words of hate,  
and attack me without cause.

<sup>4</sup> In return for my love they accuse me,  
even while I make prayer for them.

<sup>20</sup> May that be the reward of my accusers from the LORD,  
of those who speak evil against my life.

<sup>21</sup> But you, O LORD my Lord,  
act on my behalf for your name's sake;

because your steadfast love is good, deliver me.

<sup>22</sup> For I am poor and needy,  
and my heart is pierced within me.

<sup>23</sup> I am gone like a shadow at evening;  
I am shaken off like a locust.

<sup>24</sup> My knees are weak through fasting;  
my body has become gaunt.

<sup>25</sup> I am an object of scorn to my accusers;  
when they see me, they shake their heads.

<sup>26</sup> Help me, O LORD my God!  
Save me according to your steadfast love.

<sup>27</sup> Let them know that this is your hand;  
you, O LORD, have done it.

<sup>28</sup> Let them curse, but you will bless.  
Let my assailants be put to shame; may your servant  
be glad.

<sup>29</sup> May my accusers be clothed with dishonor;  
may they be wrapped in their own shame as in a  
mantle.

<sup>30</sup> With my mouth I will give great thanks to the LORD;  
I will praise him in the midst of the throng.

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

***Help me, O LORD my God!***

***Save me according to your steadfast love.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11** CEB

Brothers and sisters, I don't want you to be ignorant about spiritual gifts. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were Gentiles you were often misled by false gods that can't even speak. <sup>3</sup> So I want to make it clear to you that no one says, "Jesus is cursed!" when speaking by God's Spirit, and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. <sup>4</sup> There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are different ministries and the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good. <sup>8</sup> A word of wisdom is given by the Spirit to one person, a word of knowledge to another according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> faith to still another by the same Spirit, gifts of healing to another in the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> performance of miracles to another, prophecy to another, the ability to tell spirits apart to another, different kinds of tongues to

another, and the interpretation of the tongues to another.

<sup>11</sup> All these things are produced by the one and same Spirit who gives what he wants to each person.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL: Mark 8:11-26** CEB

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisees showed up and began to argue with Jesus. To test him, they asked for a sign from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> With an impatient sigh, Jesus said, "Why does this generation look for a sign? I assure you that no sign will be given to it." <sup>13</sup> Leaving them, he got back in the boat and crossed to the other side of the lake.

<sup>14</sup> Jesus' disciples had forgotten to bring any bread, so they had only one loaf with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup> He gave them strict orders: "Watch out and be on your guard for the yeast of the Pharisees as well as the yeast of Herod."

<sup>16</sup> The disciples discussed this among themselves, "He said this because we have no bread."

<sup>17</sup> Jesus knew what they were discussing and said, “Why are you talking about the fact that you don’t have any bread? Don’t you grasp what has happened? Don’t you understand? Are your hearts so resistant to what God is doing? <sup>18</sup> Don’t you have eyes? Why can’t you see? Don’t you have ears? Why can’t you hear? Don’t you remember? <sup>19</sup> When I broke five loaves of bread for those five thousand people, how many baskets full of leftovers did you gather?”

They answered, “Twelve.”

<sup>20</sup> “And when I broke seven loaves of bread for those four thousand people, how many baskets full of leftovers did you gather?”

They answered, “Seven.”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them, “And you still don’t understand?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus and his disciples came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to Jesus and begged him to touch and heal him. <sup>23</sup> Taking the blind man’s hand, Jesus led him out of the village. After spitting on his eyes and laying his hands on the man, he asked him, “Do you see anything?”

<sup>24</sup> The man looked up and said, “I see people. They look like trees, only they are walking around.”

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus placed his hands on the man’s eyes again. He looked with his eyes wide open, his sight was restored, and he could see everything clearly. <sup>26</sup> Then Jesus sent him home, saying, “Don’t go into the village!”

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*.

\* **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.***

3/30/22

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.**

\* PRAYER FOR THE AGED

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* FOR THE ABSENT

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly pray you graciously to behold

and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; 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.***

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\* 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

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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