

Saturday, April 16, 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 88** NRSV

***O LORD, God of my salvation,
at night, I cry out in your presence.***

O LORD, God of my salvation,
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,
² let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.
³ For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;
I am like those who have no help,
⁵ like those forsaken among the dead,
like the slain that lie in the grave,
like those whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off from your hand.
⁶ You have put me in the depths of the Pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
⁷ Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves. *Selah*
⁸ You have caused my companions to shun me;
you have made me a thing of horror to them.
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
⁹ my eye grows dim through sorrow.
Every day I call on you, O LORD;
I spread out my hands to you.
¹⁰ Do you work wonders for the dead?

Do the shades rise up to praise you? *Selah*
¹¹ Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
¹² Are your wonders known in the darkness,
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?
¹³ But I, O LORD, cry out to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
¹⁴ O LORD, why do you cast me off?
Why do you hide your face from me?
¹⁵ Wretched and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.
¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your dread assaults destroy me.
¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long;
from all sides they close in on me.
¹⁸ You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;
my companions are in darkness.
Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.
***O LORD, God of my salvation,
at night, I cry out in your presence.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: Lamentations 3:37-58** CEB

³⁷ Who ever spoke and it happened if my Lord hadn't commanded the same?

³⁸ From the mouth of the Most High evil things don't come, but rather good!

³⁹ Why then does any living person complain; why should anyone complain about their sins?

⁴⁰ We must search and examine our ways; we must return to the LORD.

⁴¹ We should lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven.

⁴² We are the ones who did wrong; we rebelled. But you, God, have not forgiven.

⁴³ You wrapped yourself up in wrath and hunted us; you killed, showing no compassion.

⁴⁴ You wrapped yourself up in a cloud; prayers can't make it through!

⁴⁵ You made us trash and garbage in front of all other people.

⁴⁶ All our enemies have opened their mouths against us.

⁴⁷ Terror and trap have come upon us, catastrophe and collapse!

⁴⁸ Streams of water pour from my eyes because of the destruction of the daughter of my people.

⁴⁹ My eyes flow and don't stop. There is no relief

⁵⁰ until the LORD looks down from the heavens and notices.

⁵¹ My eyes hurt me because of what's happened to my city's daughters.

⁵² My enemies hunted me down like a bird, relentlessly, for no reason.

⁵³ They caught me alive in a pit and threw stones at me;

⁵⁴ water flowed over my head. I thought: I'm finished.

⁵⁵ I call on your name, LORD, from the depths of the pit.

⁵⁶ Hear my voice. Don't close your ear to my need for relief, to my cry for help.

⁵⁷ Come near to me on the day I call to you. Say to me, "Don't be afraid."

⁵⁸ My Lord! Plead my desperate case; redeem my life.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **2nd READING: Hebrews 4:1-16** CEB

Therefore, since the promise that we can enter into rest is still open, let's be careful so that none of you will appear to miss it. ² We also had the good news preached to us, just as the Israelites did. However, the message they heard didn't help them because they weren't united in faith with the ones who listened to it. ³ We who have faith are entering the rest. As God said,

And because of my anger I swore:

"They will never enter into my rest!"

And yet God's works were completed at the foundation of the world. ⁴ Then somewhere he said this about the seventh day of creation: *God rested on the seventh day from all his works.* ⁵ But again, in the passage above, God said, *They will never enter my rest!* ⁶ Therefore, it's left open for some to enter it, and the ones who had the good news preached to them before didn't enter because of disobedience. ⁷ Just as it says in the passage above, God designates a certain day as "today," when he says through David much later,

*Today, if you hear his voice,
don't have stubborn hearts.*

⁸ If Joshua gave the Israelites rest, God wouldn't have spoken about another day later on. ⁹ So you see that a sabbath rest is left open for God's people. ¹⁰ The one who entered God's rest also rested from his works, just as God rested from his own.

¹¹ Therefore, let's make every effort to enter that rest so that no one will fall by following the same example of disobedience, ¹² because God's word is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates to the point that it separates the soul from the spirit and the joints from the marrow. It's able to judge the heart's thoughts and intentions. ¹³ No creature is hidden from it, but rather everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of the one to whom we have to give an answer.

¹⁴ Also, let's hold on to the confession since we have a great high priest who passed through the heavens, who is Jesus, God's Son; ¹⁵ because we don't have a high priest who can't sympathize with our weaknesses but instead one who was tempted in every way that we are, except without sin.

¹⁶ Finally, let's draw near to the throne of favor with confidence so that we can receive mercy and find grace when we need help.

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 HOLY SATURDAY

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

* PRAYERS FOR OUR ENEMIES

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* FOR SOUND GOVERNMENT

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ***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 and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; 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**

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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