

Wednesday, April 6, 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 119:145-176](#) NRSV

***Yet you are near, O LORD,
and all your commandments are true.***

¹⁴⁵ With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD.

I will keep your statutes.

¹⁴⁶ I cry to you; save me,

that I may observe your decrees.

¹⁴⁷ I rise before dawn and cry for help;

I put my hope in your words.

¹⁴⁸ My eyes are awake before each watch of the night,

that I may meditate on your promise.

¹⁴⁹ In your steadfast love hear my voice;

O LORD, in your justice preserve my life.

¹⁵⁰ Those who persecute me with evil purpose draw near;

they are far from your law.

¹⁵¹ Yet you are near, O LORD,

and all your commandments are true.

¹⁵² Long ago I learned from your decrees

that you have established them forever.

Yet you are near, O LORD,

and all your commandments are true.

¹⁵³ Look on my misery and rescue me,

for I do not forget your law.

¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause and redeem me;

give me life according to your promise.

¹⁵⁵ Salvation is far from the wicked,

for they do not seek your statutes.

¹⁵⁶ Great is your mercy, O LORD;

give me life according to your justice.

¹⁵⁷ Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,

yet I do not swerve from your decrees.

¹⁵⁸ I look at the faithless with disgust,

because they do not keep your commands.

¹⁵⁹ Consider how I love your precepts;

preserve my life according to your steadfast love.

¹⁶⁰ The sum of your word is truth;

and every one of your righteous ordinances endures forever.

¹⁶¹ Princes persecute me without cause,
but my heart stands in awe of your words.

¹⁶² I rejoice at your word
like one who finds great spoil.

¹⁶³ I hate and abhor falsehood,
but I love your law.

¹⁶⁴ Seven times a day I praise you
for your righteous ordinances.

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love your law;
nothing can make them stumble.

¹⁶⁶ I hope for your salvation, O LORD,
and I fulfill your commandments.

¹⁶⁷ My soul keeps your decrees;
I love them exceedingly.

¹⁶⁸ I keep your precepts and decrees,
for all my ways are before you.

***My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.***

¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come before you, O LORD;
give me understanding according to your word.

¹⁷⁰ Let my supplication come before you;

deliver me according to your promise.

¹⁷¹ My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.

¹⁷² My tongue will sing of your promise,
for all your commandments are right.

¹⁷³ Let your hand be ready to help me,
for I have chosen your precepts.

¹⁷⁴ I long for your salvation, O LORD,
and your law is my delight.

¹⁷⁵ Let me live that I may praise you,
and let your ordinances help me.

¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep;
seek out your servant,
for I do not forget your commandments.

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

***My lips will pour forth praise,
because you teach me your statutes.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18** CEB

⁷ The ministry that brought death was carved in letters on stone tablets. It came with such glory that the Israelites couldn't look for long at Moses' face because his face was shining with glory, even though it was a fading glory.

⁸ Won't the ministry of the Spirit be much more glorious?

⁹ If the ministry that brought condemnation has glory, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness? ¹⁰ In fact, what was glorious isn't glorious now, because of the glory that is brighter. ¹¹ If the glory that fades away was glorious, how much more glorious is the one that lasts!

¹² So, since we have such a hope, we act with great confidence. ¹³ We aren't like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the Israelites couldn't watch the end of what was fading away. ¹⁴ But their minds were closed. Right up to the present day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. The veil is not removed because it is taken away by Christ. ¹⁵ Even today, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their hearts.

¹⁶ But whenever someone turns back to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ All of us are looking with

unveiled faces at the glory of the Lord as if we were looking in a mirror. We are being transformed into that same image from one degree of glory to the next degree of glory. This comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL: Mark 10:1-16** CEB

Jesus left that place and went beyond the Jordan and into the region of Judea. Crowds gathered around him again and, as usual, he taught them. ² Some Pharisees came and, trying to test him, they asked, "Does the Law allow a man to divorce his wife?"

³ Jesus answered, "What did Moses command you?"

⁴ They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a divorce certificate and to divorce his wife."

⁵ Jesus said to them, "He wrote this commandment for you because of your unyielding hearts. ⁶ At the beginning

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of creation, *God made them male and female.* ⁷ *Because of this, a man should leave his father and mother and be joined together with his wife,* ⁸ *and the two will be one flesh.* So they are no longer two but one flesh. ⁹ Therefore, humans must not pull apart what God has put together.”

¹⁰ Inside the house, the disciples asked him again about this. ¹¹ He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹² and if a wife divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³ People were bringing children to Jesus so that he would bless them. But the disciples scolded them. ¹⁴ When Jesus saw this, he grew angry and said to them, “Allow the children to come to me. Don’t forbid them, because God’s kingdom belongs to people like these children. ¹⁵ I assure you that whoever doesn’t welcome God’s kingdom like a child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ Then he hugged the children and blessed them.

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.

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.**

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* PRAYER FOR THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***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.***

* PRAYERS FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE

***O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning
and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and
confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your
Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may
be still and know that you are God; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.***

* COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,***

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* 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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