

Friday, May 13, 2022

*Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands,  
a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear  
in the presence of God on our behalf. Hebrews 9:24*

\* **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**

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast,  
not with the old leaven of malice and evil,

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

***Christ being raised from the dead  
will never die again;  
death no longer has dominion over him.  
The death he died, he died to sin, once for all,  
but the life he lives, he lives to God.***

So consider yourselves dead to sin  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For as in Adam all die,  
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. \* OSL

\* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One\* be with you;  
***And also with you.***

Let us pray:

***Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy  
thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which  
no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no  
unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us  
also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you,  
diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a***

***faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT.)

\* **Psalm 54** NRSV

***Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.***

Save me, O God, by your name,  
and vindicate me by your might.

<sup>2</sup> Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.

<sup>3</sup> For the insolent have risen against me,  
the ruthless seek my life;  
they do not set God before them. *Selah*

<sup>4</sup> But surely, God is my helper;  
the Lord is the upholder of my life.

<sup>5</sup> He will repay my enemies for their evil.  
In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

<sup>6</sup> With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you;  
I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

<sup>7</sup> For he has delivered me from every trouble,  
and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,

one God, now and for-ever, A-men.

***Hear my prayer, O God;  
give ear to the words of my mouth.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>ST</sup> READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13** CEB

So when we couldn't stand it any longer, we thought it was a good idea to stay on in Athens by ourselves, <sup>2</sup> and we sent you Timothy, who is our brother and God's coworker in the good news about Christ. We sent him to strengthen and encourage you in your faithfulness. <sup>3</sup> We didn't want any of you to be shaken by these problems. You know very well that we were meant to go through this. <sup>4</sup> In fact, when we were with you, we kept on predicting that we were going to face problems exactly like what happened, as you know.

<sup>5</sup> That's why I sent Timothy to find out about your faithfulness when I couldn't stand it anymore. I was worried that the tempter might have tempted you so that our work would have been a waste of time.

<sup>6</sup> Now Timothy has returned to us from you and has given us good news about your faithfulness and love! He says that

you always have good memories about us and that you want to see us as much as we want to see you. <sup>7</sup> Because of this, brothers and sisters, we were encouraged in all our distress and trouble through your faithfulness. <sup>8</sup> For now we are alive if you are standing your ground in the Lord. <sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you, given all the joy we have because of you before our God? <sup>10</sup> Night and day, we pray more than ever to see all of you in person and to complete whatever you still need for your faith. <sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus guide us on our way back to you. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. <sup>13</sup> May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his people. Amen.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 5:27-37 CEB

<sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said, *Don’t commit adultery*  
<sup>28</sup> But I say to you that every man who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart. <sup>29</sup> And if your right eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out and throw it away. It’s better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off and throw it away. It’s better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body go into hell.

<sup>31</sup> “It was said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must *give her a divorce certificate.*’ <sup>32</sup> But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife except for sexual unfaithfulness forces her to commit adultery. And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup> “Again you have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago: *Don’t make a false solemn pledge, but you should follow through on what you have pledged to the Lord.*<sup>l</sup> <sup>34</sup> But I say to you that you must not pledge at all. You must not pledge by heaven, because it’s God’s throne. <sup>35</sup> You must not pledge by the earth, because it’s God’s footstool. You must not pledge by Jerusalem, because it’s the city of the great king. <sup>36</sup> And you must not pledge by your head, because you can’t turn one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup> Let your

yes mean yes, and your *no* mean no. Anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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*. LUKE 1:68-79

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)*

\* FOR A SICK PERSON

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly ask you to recognize, visit, and relieve your sick servants for whom our prayers are desired.

Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; preserve them from the temptations of the enemy; and give them patience under their affliction. In your good time, restore them to health, and enable them to live the remainder of their lives in your awe, and to your glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* FOR VOCATION IN DAILY WORK

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

\* FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN

***Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us  
with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength  
and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may  
teach them to love whatever is just and true and good,  
following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. 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**

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, 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**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.  
**Amen.**

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## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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