

Thursday, July 7, 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.

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***Satisfy us in the morning  
with your steadfast love, O God,  
that we may sing for joy  
and be glad all our days.***

PSALM 90:14

\* **MORNING CANTICLE OF JOY**

Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands;  
serve the LORD with gladness  
and come before God's presence with a song.  
***Know this: The LORD is God; the LORD has made us,***

***and we belong to the One who created us;  
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.***

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;  
go into God's courts with praise;  
give thanks to God and call upon God's Name.

***For the LORD is good;***

***God's mercy is everlasting;***

***and God's faithfulness endures from age to age.***

PSALM 100

\* **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.***

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\* [Psalm 18:1-20](#) NRSV

***In my distress I called upon the LORD;  
to my God I cried for help.***

***From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry to him reached his ears.***

<sup>1</sup> I love you, O LORD, my strength.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

<sup>3</sup> I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,  
so I shall be saved from my enemies.

<sup>4</sup> The cords of death encompassed me;  
the torrents of perdition assailed me;

<sup>5</sup> the cords of Sheol entangled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.

<sup>6</sup> In my distress I called upon the LORD;  
to my God I cried for help.

From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry to him reached his ears.

<sup>7</sup> Then the earth reeled and rocked;  
the foundations also of the mountains trembled  
and quaked, because he was angry.

<sup>8</sup> Smoke went up from his nostrils,  
and devouring fire from his mouth;  
glowing coals flamed forth from him.

<sup>9</sup> He bowed the heavens, and came down;  
thick darkness was under his feet.

<sup>10</sup> He rode on a cherub, and flew;  
he came swiftly upon the wings of the wind.

<sup>11</sup> He made darkness his covering around him,  
his canopy thick clouds dark with water.

<sup>12</sup> Out of the brightness before him  
there broke through his clouds  
hailstones and coals of fire.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD also thundered in the heavens,  
and the Most High uttered his voice.

<sup>14</sup> And he sent out his arrows, and scattered them;  
he flashed forth lightnings, and routed them.

<sup>15</sup> Then the channels of the sea were seen,  
and the foundations of the world were laid bare  
at your rebuke, O LORD,  
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

<sup>16</sup> He reached down from on high, he took me;  
he drew me out of mighty waters.

<sup>17</sup> He delivered me from my strong enemy,  
and from those who hated me;

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for they were too mighty for me.

<sup>18</sup> They confronted me in the day of my calamity;  
but the LORD was my support.

<sup>19</sup> He brought me out into a broad place;  
he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness;  
according to the cleanness of my hands he  
recompensed me.

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

***In my distress I called upon the LORD;  
to my God I cried for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry to him reached his ears.***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **1<sup>st</sup> READING: Romans 9:19-33** CEB

<sup>19</sup> So you are going to say to me, “Then why does he still blame people? Who has ever resisted his will?” <sup>20</sup> You are only a human being. Who do you think you are to talk

back to God? *Does the clay say to the potter, “Why did you make me like this?”* <sup>21</sup> Doesn’t the potter have the power over the clay to make one pot for special purposes and another for garbage from the same lump of clay?

<sup>22</sup> What if God very patiently puts up with pots made for wrath that were designed for destruction, because he wanted to show his wrath and to make his power known?

<sup>23</sup> What if he did this to make the wealth of his glory known toward pots made for mercy, which he prepared in advance for glory? <sup>24</sup> We are the ones God has called. We don’t come only from the Jews but we also come from the Gentiles. <sup>25</sup> As it says also in Hosea,

*I will call “my people” those who aren’t my people,  
and the one who isn’t well loved, I will call “loved one.”*

<sup>26</sup> And in the place where it was said to them,

*“You aren’t my people,”*

there they will be called *“the living God’s children.*

<sup>27</sup> But Isaiah cries out for Israel,

*Though the number of Israel’s children will be like the sand of the sea,*

*only a remaining part will be saved,*

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<sup>28</sup> *because the Lord does what he says completely and quickly.*

<sup>29</sup> As Isaiah prophesied,

*If the Lord of the heavenly forces had not left descendants for us,*

*we would have been like Sodom,*

*and we would have become like Gomorrah.*

<sup>30</sup> So what are we going to say? Gentiles who weren't striving for righteousness achieved righteousness, the righteousness that comes from faith. <sup>31</sup> But though Israel was striving for a Law of righteousness, they didn't arrive.

<sup>32</sup> Why? It's because they didn't go for it by faith but they went for it as if it could be reached by doing something.

They have tripped over a stumbling block. <sup>33</sup> As it is written:

*Look! I'm putting a stumbling block in Zion,*

*which is a rock that offends people.*

*And the one who has faith in him will not be put to shame.*<sup>[1]</sup>

Holy wisdom, holy word.

***Thanks be to God!***

\* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

\* **2<sup>nd</sup> READING: Matthew 24:1-14** CEB

Now Jesus left the temple and was going away. His disciples came to point out to him the temple buildings.

<sup>2</sup> He responded, "Do you see all these things? I assure that no stone will be left on another. Everything will be demolished."

<sup>3</sup> Now while Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will these things happen? What will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age?"

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, "Watch out that no one deceives you.

<sup>5</sup> Many will come in my name, saying, 'I'm the Christ.' They will deceive many people. <sup>6</sup> You will hear about wars and reports of wars. Don't be alarmed. These things must happen, but this isn't the end yet. <sup>7</sup> Nations and kingdoms will fight against each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in all sorts of places. <sup>8</sup> But all these things are just the beginning of the sufferings associated with the end. <sup>9</sup> They will arrest you, abuse you, and they will kill you. All nations will hate you on account of my name. <sup>10</sup> At

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that time many will fall away. They will betray each other and hate each other. <sup>11</sup> Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. <sup>12</sup> Because disobedience will expand, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be delivered. <sup>14</sup> This gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world as a testimony to all the nations. Then the end will come.

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,***

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***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.**

\* PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this fellowship family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

\* PRAYER FOR IN TIMES OF CONFLICT

***O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; 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.***

\* COLLECT OF THE WEEK

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; 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,

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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.**

## Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at  
Elwood United Methodist Church

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