

Wednesday, July 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:

**Dawn from on high,
Your light illumines all our days.
Awaken us to your visitations throughout this day.
Be merciful in us for the sake of others.
Make us fearless when confronting injustice and
need, that we may give you glory in the power of the
Spirit. Amen.**

* For All the Saints

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **Psalm 119:1-24** NRSV

***With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.***

¹ Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD.

² Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,

³ who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways.

⁴ You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.

⁵ O that my ways may be steadfast

in keeping your statutes!

⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.

⁸ I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

⁹ How can young people keep their way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.

¹¹ I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.

¹² Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes.

¹³ With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.

¹⁴ I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.

¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

¹⁷ Deal bountifully with your servant,
so that I may live and observe your word.

¹⁸ Open my eyes, so that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.

¹⁹ I live as an alien in the land;
do not hide your commandments from me.

²⁰ My soul is consumed with longing
for your ordinances at all times.

²¹ You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,
who wander from your commandments;

²² take away from me their scorn and contempt,
for I have kept your decrees.

²³ Even though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant will meditate on your statutes.

²⁴ Your decrees are my delight,
they are my counselors.

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

***With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: Romans 9:1-18** CEB

I'm speaking the truth in Christ—I'm not lying, as my conscience assures me with the Holy Spirit: ² I have great sadness and constant pain in my heart. ³ I wish I could be cursed, cut off from Christ if it helped my brothers and sisters, who are my flesh-and-blood relatives. ⁴ They are Israelites. The adoption as God's children, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the worship, and the promises belong to them. ⁵ The Jewish ancestors are theirs, and the Christ descended from those ancestors. He is the one who rules over all things, who is God, and who is blessed forever. Amen.

But it's not as though God's word has failed. Not all who are descended from Israel are part of Israel. ⁷ Not all of Abraham's children are called Abraham's descendants, but instead *your descendants will be named through Isaac*. ⁸ That means it isn't the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children from the promise who are counted as descendants. ⁹ The words in the promise were: *A year from now I will return, and Sarah will have a son.*

¹⁰ Not only that, but also Rebecca conceived children with one man, our ancestor Isaac. ¹¹ When they hadn't been born yet and when they hadn't yet done anything good or bad, it was shown that God's purpose would continue because it was based on his choice. ¹² It wasn't because of what was done but because of God's call. This was said to her: *The older child will be a slave to the younger one.* ¹³ As it is written, *I loved Jacob, but I hated Esau.*

¹⁴ So what are we going to say? Isn't this unfair on God's part? Absolutely not! ¹⁵ He says to Moses, *I'll have mercy on whomever I choose to have mercy, and I'll show compassion to whomever I choose to show compassion.*

¹⁶ So then, it doesn't depend on a person's desire or effort. It depends entirely on God, who shows mercy.

¹⁷ Scripture says to Pharaoh, *I have put you in this position for this very thing: so I can show my power in you and so that my name can be spread through the entire earth.* ¹⁸ So then, God has mercy on whomever he wants to, but he makes resistant whomever he wants to.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL: Matthew 23:27-39** CEB

²⁷ "How terrible it will be for you legal experts and Pharisees! Hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs. They look beautiful on the outside. But inside they are full of dead bones and all kinds of filth. ²⁸ In the same way you look righteous to people. But inside you are full of pretense and rebellion.

²⁹ "How terrible it will be for you legal experts and Pharisees! Hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. ³⁰ You say, 'If we had lived in our ancestors' days, we wouldn't have joined them in killing the prophets.' ³¹ You testify against yourselves that you are children of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Go ahead, complete what your ancestors did. ³³ You snakes! You children of snakes! How will you be able to escape the judgment of hell? ³⁴ Therefore, look, I'm sending you prophets, wise people, and legal experts. Some of them you will kill and crucify. And some you will beat in your synagogues and chase from city to city.

³⁵ Therefore, upon you will come all the righteous blood

that has been poured out on the earth, from the blood of that righteous man Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you killed between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ I assure you that all these things will come upon this generation.

³⁷ “Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You who kill the prophets and stone those who were sent to you. How often I wanted to gather your people together, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings. But you didn’t want that. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you deserted. ³⁹ I tell you, you won’t see me until you say, *Blessings on the one who comes in the Lord’s name.*”

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)*

* PRAYER FOR RECOVERY OF SICKNESS

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to those we pray for this day, the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* CLERGY AND PEOPLE

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of your grace: and, that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual

dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

* A COLLECT FOR THE RENEWAL OF LIFE

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; 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,
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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