

Thursday, August 11, 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.***

* **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 105:1-22](#) NRSV

He is the LORD our God;

his judgments are in all the earth.

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

² Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

³ Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually.

⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

⁷ He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.

⁸ He is mindful of his covenant forever,
of the word that he commanded, for a thousand
generations,

⁹ the covenant that he made with Abraham,
his sworn promise to Isaac,

¹⁰ which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,

to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

¹¹ saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."

¹² When they were few in number,
of little account, and strangers in it,

¹³ wandering from nation to nation,
from one kingdom to another people,

¹⁴ he allowed no one to oppress them;
he rebuked kings on their account,

¹⁵ saying, "Do not touch my anointed ones;
do my prophets no harm."

¹⁶ When he summoned famine against the land,
and broke every staff of bread,

¹⁷ he had sent a man ahead of them,
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

¹⁸ His feet were hurt with fetters,
his neck was put in a collar of iron;

¹⁹ until what he had said came to pass,
the word of the LORD kept testing him.

²⁰ The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free.

²¹ He made him lord of his house,
and ruler of all his possessions,

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²² to instruct his officials at his pleasure,
and to teach his elders wisdom.

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

***He is the LORD our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.***

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: Acts 6:15-7:16** CEB

¹⁵ Everyone seated in the council stared at Stephen, and they saw that his face was radiant, just like an angel's.

⁷ The high priest asked, "Are these accusations true?"

² Stephen responded, "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. Our glorious God appeared to our ancestor Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he settled in Haran. ³ God told him, 'Leave your homeland and kin, and go to the land that I will show you.' ⁴ So Abraham left the land of the Chaldeans and settled in Haran. After Abraham's father died, God had him resettle in this land

where you now live. ⁵ God didn't give him an inheritance here, not even a square foot of land. However, God did promise to give the land as his possession to him and to his descendants, even though Abraham had no child.

⁶ God put it this way: *His descendants will be strangers in a land that belongs to others, who will enslave them and abuse them for four hundred years.* ⁷ *And I will condemn the nation they serve as slaves, God said, and afterward they will leave* ^[c] that land and serve me in this place.

⁸ God gave him the covenant confirmed through circumcision. Accordingly, eight days after Isaac's birth, Abraham circumcised him. Isaac did the same with Jacob, and Jacob with the twelve patriarchs.

⁹ "Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him into slavery in Egypt. God was with him, however, ¹⁰ and rescued him from all his troubles. The grace and wisdom he gave Joseph were recognized by Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who appointed him ruler over Egypt and over his whole palace. ¹¹ A famine came upon all Egypt and Canaan, and great hardship came with it. Our ancestors had nothing to eat. ¹² When Jacob heard there was grain in Egypt, he sent our ancestors there for the first time. ¹³ During their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about

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Joseph's family. ¹⁴ Joseph sent for his father Jacob and all his relatives—seventy-five in all—and invited them to live with him. ¹⁵ So Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our ancestors died. ¹⁶ Their bodies were brought back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had purchased for a certain sum of money from Hamor's children, who lived in Shechem.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **2nd READING: John 4:27-42** CEB

²⁷ Just then, Jesus' disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

²⁸ The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who has told me everything I've done! Could this man be the Christ?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

³¹ In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

³² Jesus said to them, "I have food to eat that you don't know about."

³³ The disciples asked each other, "Has someone brought him food?"

³⁴ Jesus said to them, "I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. ³⁵ Don't you have a saying, 'Four more months and then it's time for harvest'? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. ³⁶ Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. ³⁷ This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. ³⁸ I have sent you to harvest what you didn't work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work."

³⁹ Many Samaritans in that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's word when she testified, "He told me everything I've ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ Many more believed because of his word, ⁴² and they said to the woman, "We no longer

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believe because of what you said, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this one is truly the savior of the world.”

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,***

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***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 LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State of New Jersey, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace.

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Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. 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**

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; 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,

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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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