Thursday, August 18, 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 | |
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| 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. 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.

* Psalm 131 NRSV

O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

- O LORD, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high;
 I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me.
 ² But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.
- ³O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

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

O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* 1st READING: Acts 8:26-40 CEB

²⁶ An angel from the Lord spoke to Philip, "At noon, take the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) ²⁷ So he did. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian man was on his way home from Jerusalem, where he had come to worship. He was a eunuch and an official responsible for the entire treasury of Candace. (Candace is the title given to the Ethiopian queen.) ²⁸ He was reading the prophet Isaiah while sitting in his carriage. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Approach this carriage and stay with it."

³⁰ Running up to the carriage, Philip heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you really understand what you are reading?"

³¹ The man replied, "Without someone to guide me, how could I?" Then he invited Philip to climb up and sit with him. ³² This was the passage of scripture he was reading:

- Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent so he didn't open his mouth.
- ³³ In his humiliation justice was taken away from him.
 Who can tell the story of his descendants
 because his life was taken from the earth?

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, about whom does the prophet say this? Is he talking about himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Starting with that passage, Philip proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went down the road, they came to some water.

The eunuch said, "Look! Water! What would keep me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He ordered that the carriage halt. Both Philip and the eunuch went down to the water, where Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Lord's Spirit suddenly took Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip found himself in Azotus. He traveled through that area, preaching the good news in all the cities until he reached Caesarea.

> Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* 2nd READING: John 6:16-27 CEB

¹⁶ When evening came, Jesus' disciples went down to the lake. ¹⁷ They got into a boat and were crossing the lake to Capernaum. It was already getting dark and Jesus hadn't come to them yet. ¹⁸ The water was getting rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When the wind had driven them out for about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the water. He was approaching the boat and they were afraid. ²⁰ He said to them, "I Am. Don't be afraid." ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and just then the boat reached the land where they had been heading.

²² The next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the lake realized that only one boat had been there. They knew Jesus hadn't gone with his disciples, but that the disciples had gone alone. ²³ Some boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they had eaten the bread over which the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴ When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

²⁶ Jesus replied, "I assure you that you are looking for me not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate all the food you wanted. ²⁷ Don't work for the food that doesn't last but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Human One will give you. God the Father has confirmed him as his agent to give life."

> Holy wisdom, holy word. Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

We bless you, Adonai, <u>God</u> of *Israel*, for you come to visit us and ransom <u>us</u> from *bondage*. You have brought forth a <u>strong</u> De-*liverer* in the house of <u>your</u> child *David*. This is what your holy <u>prophets</u> an-nounced: deliverance from enemies and from the hand of <u>all</u> who hate *us*; mercy a-<u>mong</u> our *ancestors*, and remembrance of your <u>ho</u>-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 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*.

* COMMEMORATIVE PRAYER –

William Porcher DuBose (1918) Almighty God, you gave to your servant William Porcher DuBose special gifts of grace to understand the Scriptures and to teach the truth as it is in Christ Jesus: Grant that by this teaching we may know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* * *For All the Saints*

* FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

* PRAYERS FOR UNITY OF THE CHURCH

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and harmony; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify you; 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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 wellbeloved 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*.

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at Elwood United Methodist Church

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