

Thursday, August 25, 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.***

8/25/22

* [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.***

¹ I love you, O LORD, my strength.

² 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.

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

⁴ The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of perdition assailed me;

⁵ the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

⁶ 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹⁵ 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.

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

¹⁷ He delivered me from my strong enemy,
and from those who hated me;

8/25/22

for they were too mighty for me.

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

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

²⁰ 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

* **1st READING: Acts 10:17-33** CEB

¹⁷ Peter was bewildered about the meaning of the vision.
Just then, the messengers sent by Cornelius discovered

the whereabouts of Simon's house and arrived at the
gate. ¹⁸ Calling out, they inquired whether the Simon
known as Peter was a guest there.

¹⁹ While Peter was brooding over the vision, the Spirit
interrupted him, "Look! Three people are looking for you.

²⁰ Go downstairs. Don't ask questions; just go with them
because I have sent them."

²¹ So Peter went downstairs and told them, "I'm the one
you are looking for. Why have you come?"

²² They replied, "We've come on behalf of Cornelius, a
centurion and righteous man, a God-worshipper who is
well-respected by all Jewish people. A holy angel directed
him to summon you to his house and to hear what you
have to say." ²³ Peter invited them into the house as his
guests.

The next day he got up and went with them, together with
some of the believers from Joppa. ²⁴ They arrived in
Caesarea the following day. Anticipating their arrival,
Cornelius had gathered his relatives and close friends.

²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell
at his feet in order to honor him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up,
saying, "Get up! Like you, I'm just a human." ²⁷ As they
continued to talk, Peter went inside and found a large

8/25/22

gathering of people. ²⁸ He said to them, “You all realize that it is forbidden for a Jew to associate or visit with outsiders. However, God has shown me that I should never call a person impure or unclean. ²⁹ For this reason, when you sent for me, I came without objection. I want to know, then, why you sent for me.”

³⁰ Cornelius answered, “Four days ago at this same time, three o’clock in the afternoon, I was praying at home. Suddenly a man in radiant clothing stood before me. ³¹ He said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayers, and your compassionate acts are like a memorial offering to him. ³² Therefore, send someone to Joppa and summon Simon, who is known as Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, located near the seacoast.’ ³³ I sent for you right away, and you were kind enough to come. Now, here we are, gathered in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has directed you to say.”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **2nd READING: John 7:14-36** CEB

¹⁴ Halfway through the festival, Jesus went up to the temple and started to teach. ¹⁵ Astonished, the Jewish leaders asked, “He’s never been taught! How has he mastered the Law?”

¹⁶ Jesus responded, “My teaching isn’t mine but comes from the one who sent me. ¹⁷ Whoever wants to do God’s will can tell whether my teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own. ¹⁸ Those who speak on their own seek glory for themselves. Those who seek the glory of him who sent me are people of truth; there’s no falsehood in them. ¹⁹ Didn’t Moses give you the Law? Yet none of you keep the Law. Why do you want to kill me?”

²⁰ The crowd answered, “You have a demon. Who wants to kill you?”

²¹ Jesus replied, “I did one work, and you were all astonished. ²² Because Moses gave you the commandment about circumcision (although it wasn’t Moses but the patriarchs), you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³ If a man can be circumcised on the Sabbath without breaking Moses’ Law, why are you angry with me because I made an entire man well on the Sabbath?”

8/25/22

²⁴ Don't judge according to appearances. Judge with right judgment."

²⁵ Some people from Jerusalem said, "Isn't he the one they want to kill? ²⁶ Here he is, speaking in public, yet they aren't saying anything to him. Could it be that our leaders actually think he is the Christ? ²⁷ We know where he is from, but when the Christ comes, no one will know where he is from."

²⁸ While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he exclaimed, "You know me and where I am from. I haven't come on my own. The one who sent me is true, and you don't know him. ²⁹ I know him because I am from him and he sent me." ³⁰ So they wanted to seize Jesus, but they couldn't because his time hadn't yet come.

³¹ Many from that crowd believed in Jesus. They said, "When the Christ comes, will he do more miraculous signs than this man does?" ³² The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about Jesus, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent guards to arrest him.

³³ Therefore, Jesus said, "I'm still with you for a little while before I go to the one who sent me. ³⁴ You will look for me, but you won't find me, and where I am you can't come."

³⁵ The Jewish opposition asked each other, "Where does he intend to go that we can't find him? Surely he doesn't intend to go where our people have been scattered and are living among the Greeks! He isn't going to teach the Greeks, is he? ³⁶ What does he mean when he says, 'You will look for me, but you won't find me, and where I am you can't 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*.**

8/25/22

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

8/25/22

* **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 THE HARVEST OF LANDS AND WATERS

O gracious Father, who opens your hand and fills all things living with abundance: Bless the lands and waters, and

multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give her increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

* PRAYERS FOR THE POOR AND THE NEGLECTED

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,***

8/25/22

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, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; 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 grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Amen.

8/25/22

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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