

Saturday, September 17, 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 OF WISDOM**

Wisdom has built her house, setting up seven pillars.
She has prepared the food and wine and set her table.

**She has sent out her servants
to call out from the Heights above the city:**

"Let those who want enlightenment come.
Come, taste my bread and drink my spiced wine.

**Give up your foolishness and live,
And walk the path of understanding."**

If you are wise, your reward is wisdom;
If you teach the just, they grow in understanding.
**Wisdom begins with reverence for God,
and knowledge of the holy one is insight.**

* OSL

* **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;
And also with you.

Let us pray:

Let us pray:

Oh God, The Holy Spirit,
come to us, and among us;
come as the wind, and cleanse us;
come as the fire, and burn;
come as the dew, and refresh;
convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives to
our great good and to your greater glory;
and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen**

[UM Book of Worship.]

* **Psalm 75** NRSV

We give thanks to you, O God;

we give thanks; your name is near.

¹ We give thanks to you, O God;

we give thanks; your name is near.

People tell of your wondrous deeds.

² At the set time that I appoint

I will judge with equity.

³ When the earth totters, with all its inhabitants,

it is I who keep its pillars steady. *Selah*

⁴ I say to the boastful, "Do not boast,"

and to the wicked, "Do not lift up your horn;

⁵ do not lift up your horn on high,

or speak with insolent neck."

⁶ For not from the east or from the west

and not from the wilderness comes lifting up;

⁷ but it is God who executes judgment,

putting down one and lifting up another.

⁸ For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup

with foaming wine, well mixed;

he will pour a draught from it,

and all the wicked of the earth

shall drain it down to the dregs.

⁹ But I will rejoice forever;

I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

¹⁰ All the horns of the wicked I will cut off,

but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,

one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

We give thanks to you, O God;

we give thanks; your name is near.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **1st READING: Acts 17:16-34** NRSV

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the market-place every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, 'What does this babbling man want to say?' Others said, 'He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities.' (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and

the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, ‘May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means.’ ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as

even some of your own poets have said,

“For we too are his offspring.”

²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

³² When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, ‘We will hear you again about this.’ ³³At that point Paul left them. ³⁴But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

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

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **GOSPEL: John 12:44-50** NRSV

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried aloud: 'Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. ⁴⁵And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. ⁴⁶I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. ⁴⁷I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, ⁴⁹for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me.'

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.

* SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

* **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 THOSE WHO MOURN

*Gracious God, as your son wept with Mary and
Martha at the tomb of Lazarus, look with compassion
this day on those who grieve. Grant them the
assurance of your presence now and faith in your
eternal goodness, that in them may be fulfilled the
promise that those who mourn shall be comforted;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

* PRAYERS FOR OUR ENEMIES

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* FOR SOUND GOVERNMENT

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. ***Amen.***

* A COLLECT FOR SATURDAYS

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven; 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, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ 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 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.

Morning Prayer

A ministry of the faithful at
Elwood United Methodist Church

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