

Year A; Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for July 19, 2020
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 28:10-19a
- Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
- Romans 8:12-25
- Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 139*)

One: O Lord, where can we go from your spirit?

All: Or where can we flee from your presence?

One: If we ascend to heaven, you are there;

All: if we make our bed in Sheol, you are there.

One: If we settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

All: even there your hand shall lead us, and your right hand shall hold us fast. Let us worship God.

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Romans 8*)

Paul writes that we are debtors to God as God, in Jesus, has come to earth to witness to us the ways of righteousness and has offered us life in the Spirit, which brings true life and peace. Let us examine ourselves to request God's forgiveness for all the acts of our fleshy natures, which bring death.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, too often we fall back into old patterns — into enslavement to sin, to our fleshy nature, and to fear. Forgive our sins. Grant us your Holy Spirit and grow its influence within us. Abba, Father, adopt as your children — Children of God — and have your Holy Spirit witness to this within our spirits. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear this good news! If we live by the Spirit, God offers us adoption into his family to become even children of God. He frees us from enslavement to sin for fellowship with God. Live in the Spirit, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*IN UNISON*)

Righteous God, the Gospel of Matthew testifies to your faithfulness to all the righteous in this world. You teach your workers not to pull the weeds, the children of the evil one, from the field until the harvest is ready for pulling these weeds might destroy some of the harvest of the good seed, the children of God by mistake. In response to your righteousness and faithfulness, we offer these gifts for your work in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Some portions are direct quotes; though, quotation marks and designations are usually left out for ease of use in bulletins and other worship resources. Usually, the Call to Worship is based upon the Psalm of the day and follows that Psalm very closely but modifying it for a leader vs. congregation responsive setting if necessary. Other elements usually deviate more significantly from the text. While they may quote very short sections, they are generally written in the theme of the text. Elements usually designate the book and chapter from which they are derived.

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