

Year A; Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for August 16, 2020
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 45:1-15
- Psalm 133:1-3
- Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
- Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Matthew 15*)

One: Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

All: Then a Canaanite woman came out asking for mercy for her daughter, who was tormented by a demon.

One: But Jesus wasn't sent to the Canaanites.

All: He was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

One: For his message was meant to be taken to the Israelites first and, then, to the Gentiles.

All: But our Lord recognized the Canaanite woman's faith, and her daughter was healed instantly. Let us worship God.

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Romans 11*)

God has grafted the Gentiles, a wild olive shoot, describing many of us, into his tree and into his family. We, though, sometimes boast or assume our status when he has every ability and authority to graft the natural branches, the Israelites, back into our place. Let us come before the Almighty God in repentance for all sins that we have committed.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Romans 11*)

Merciful and Almighty God, you are gracious to offer us a place in your family and salvation as a free gift through faith. Too often, though, we may boast of our status to ourselves and, maybe, occasionally to others. We count on cheap grace — a grace that does not have consequences. Forgive our unfaithfulness, and build our faith. Help us to respond in thankfulness with a total reliance and dedication to you. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Jeremiah 29:12-14*)

Even in the unfaithfulness of the Israelites, God was faithful. Even in exile, God told the Israelites, that if they called upon him, prayed to him, and sought him with all their heart, they would find him, and he would hear them and restore them. May we seek the Lord with all our hearts, and know that we are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*IN UNISON*)

God, our provider, our scriptures testify that our Lord Jesus was regularly interrupted with the needs of the people around where he would stay and seek solitude. Rather than ignoring them indefinitely, he would have compassion for them, teach them and heal them. Even today, ruling from heaven, we are assured of his intercessions for us, and we gather in thankfulness for his attention to each of his children including each of us. In thankfulness, we offer these gifts from our labors for his work on earth. Guide our church leaders to invest them wisely and according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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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