

Year A; Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for September 6, 2020
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Exodus 12:1-14
- Psalm 149
- Romans 13:8-14
- Matthew 18:15-20

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 149)

One: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

All: Let us praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

One: For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory.

All: Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Praise the Lord!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Psalm 149)

The Psalmist provides us good insight when he writes “the Lord takes pleasure in his people, he adorns the humble with victory.” Let us now humbly come before God to confess how we have wronged God and wronged neighbor.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (from Matthew 18)

Merciful God, we have wronged you and wronged our neighbor by doing what you have commanded us not to do and by failing to do what you have commanded us to do. Many times, our neighbor has remained silent regarding our sin, but other times, they have humbly pointed out our sin — even engaging others to make that sin known to us. Sometimes, we have had hardened hearts unwilling to acknowledge that sin. Grow within us a renewed heart — one that loves you with our entire being and one that loves our neighbor as we love ourself. Open us to recognizing and acknowledging our sin and help us to reconcile ourselves to you and to our neighbor. We pray humbly in the name of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Romans 13*)

The Apostle Paul writes, “Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.” Let us follow Paul’s direction but also gain encouragement in his earlier words, “Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.” Repent, and know that we are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Romans 13*)

Gracious God, you command us to love one another, but this love is not foreign to you. For even in our sinfulness, you sent your very self in the form of Jesus to come and journey with people such as us and to model love to them and to us. He bore our sins on the cross that we might be forgiven and reconciled to you and so that love would prevail. Even in the Holy Trinity, your relationship is so integrated that love must be a part of your very nature. In thankfulness for the blessings you provide us every day, we offer these tithes for the work of your Kingdom. 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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