

Year A; Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for September 13, 2020
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Exodus 14:19-31
- Psalm 114
- Romans 14:1-12
- Matthew 18:21-35

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 114*)

One: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

All: at the presence of the God of Jacob.

One: who turns the rock into a pool of water,

All: the flint into a spring of water. Let us worship God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Romans 14*)

The Apostle Paul writes, "We do not live to ourselves, and do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." Let us come before the throne of grace and confess our sins.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

God of grace, only one person has ever lived a life without sin and this was our Lord Jesus Christ. We all are guilty of failing to fulfill your commandments. Despite this, we sometimes ignore our own sin and focus on the sin of our neighbor. We pass inappropriate judgment, and we despise our neighbor. We keep a record of their sins toward us and hold them accountable. Help us to see our own sin and to repent before counseling our neighbor lovingly. In the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Romans 14*)

Each of us will be accountable to God. Our Lord, Jesus, though, died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Let us put our trust, our life, and our dying in him and know that we are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Matthew 18*)

Loving God, we stand before you with sins that number more than seventy-seven or even seventy times seven. Our debt to you is beyond description. If we were to settle our accounts with you according to our merits, we would be hopelessly lost. But as the king from the parable shared early, we come before you begging for mercy. You release us from this debt, and you forgive our debts. With thankfulness, we offer from what you have given us these gifts in the name of your Son, 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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