

Year B; Second Sunday of Christmas
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 3, 2021
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Jeremiah 31:7-14
- Psalm 147:12-20
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- John 1:(1-9), 10-18

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Ephesians 1*)

Paul shares that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. Our holiness is tainted with sin, we are not blameless, and our love knows limits. Let us confess our sin, ask God's forgiveness, and trust in his sanctification.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Ephesians 1*)

Paul also shares, "In Jesus we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us." Repent of your sin, and take comfort in God's forgiveness and redemption. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from John 1*)

Gracious God, you gave us the Law to show us our sin, Christ Jesus to show how humans might live without sin, and the Holy Spirit to reside within us and guide us through a Christian life. You free us from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ. Continue to grow us in faithfulness and holiness. We return a portion of what you have given us for the work of your church on earth. Guide our Session to invest it according to your will. 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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