

Year B; Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for July 25, 2021
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts (Semicontinuous)

- 2 Samuel 11:1-15
- Psalm 14
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- John 6:1-21

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 14*)

One: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

All: The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

One: What does God find?

All: They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse. There is no one who does good, no, not one.

One: But God is with the company of the righteous.

All: The Lord is the refuge of the poor.

One: When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

All: Let us worship God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from 2 Samuel 11*)

Since the time of Adam and Eve to the time of David and to today, we often know our sin but try to hide it. God, though, knows our sin and calls us to repentance. Let us confess our sin to God and trust in his mercy.

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, you call us to absolute righteousness and to purity, and you are at work in us to make us righteous and pure. Despite this, though, we stray from your ways. We become self-focused rather than God-focused and other-focused. When we sin, we often try to hide it — to hide it in darkness. One day, though, all our works will be brought into the light and evaluated. Have mercy on us. Forgive our sins and continue your work within us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Ephesians 3*)

May we all have the power to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. Trust and follow him, and know that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*IN UNISON, from Ephesians 3*)

Gracious God, on our own and even as a fellowship of people, we can do little. But, by your power at work within us, we are able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine. We thank you for your power at work within us and your power at work within this congregation. Enable us for still more, and accept these gifts for the work of your church. 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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