

**Year B; Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for August 22, 2021**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts** (Semicontinuous)

- 1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43
- Psalm 84
- Ephesians 6:10-20
- John 6:56-69

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 84*)

One: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**All: Our souls long, indeed, they faint for the courts of the Lord; our hearts and our flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

One: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**All: Happy are those who live in your house, even singing your praise.**

One: Happy are those whose strength is in you,

**All: in whose heart are the highways to Zion. Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Ephesians 6*)

God calls us to put on the whole armor of God and to flee from temptation. We, though, at times flirt with the devil and are corrupted by his wiles. Let us confess our sins to God and trust in his salvation.

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Ephesians 6*)

**Almighty God, we struggle in this world, but often we see other humans as the root of our struggle. Your word, though, shows us that our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Forgive our misplaced blame and our mistreatment of our neighbor. We, also, are prone to set aside some of the battle gear you give us. Forgive our sins, help us to know with whom we struggle, and equip us for the battle. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Ephesians 6*)

God gives us all we need for the struggles of this world: the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, readiness to proclaim the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Use and trust all the implements God has given you and, also, in his salvation. **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*IN UNISON, from Psalm 84*)**

**Heavenly Father, a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. We would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of our God than live in the tents of wickedness. For you, O Lord, are a sun and shield; you bestow favor and honor. No good thing do you withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you. In response to these blessings and more beyond, we offer these gifts for your work. 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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