

Year B; Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for September 5, 2021
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts (Semicontinuous)

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
- Psalm 125
- James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17
- Mark 7:24-37

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 125*)

One: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,

All: which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

One: As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

All: so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore.

One: For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,

All: so that the righteous might not stretch out their hands to do wrong.

One: Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,

All: and to those who are upright in their hearts. Let us worship God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from James 2*)

James challenged the people of his day as he does us today as he states, "My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?" Let us recall those to whom we show favor and confess our sins.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (30 seconds)

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from James 2*)

Creator God, you formed this world and all humanity in your image, but we tend to focus on differences. We gravitate to those who are rich who might offer us the scraps of their wealth. We dishonor the poor and fail to recognize that it is often the rich who oppress. Despite that the poor in the world often are rich in faith, we fail to see their faith is an example for us. Forgive our sin and make us as the poor so that we might be rich in faith. Remove our partiality that we might not be convicted by the law as transgressors. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Matthew 25*)

Jesus has told his followers that he will recognize them and will recognize what they do for the least of humankind. He will welcome the righteous into eternal life. Let us follow Jesus, and know that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*IN UNISON, from Matthew 7*)

God, our shepherd, before our Lord walked this earth, the faith of the Israelites limited participation of Gentiles such as most of us. Gentiles were restricted from most areas in the Temple compound, and they had to adopt the ritual law. But with Jesus, the fullness of the faith has been offered to us just as Jesus offered immediate healing to the daughter of the Greek woman. With thanks, we offer these gifts for your kingdom. 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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