

**Year B; Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for September 19, 2021**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts** (Semicontinuous)

- Proverbs 31:10-31
- Psalm 1
- James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
- Mark 9:30-37

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 1*)

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**All: but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.**

One: They are like trees planted by streams of water,

**All: which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper.**

One: The Lord watches over the ways of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**All: Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Mark 9*)

We live in a culture that urges us to boast about our accomplishments — to prove our worthiness, but God commands us to be humble and meek and to find worth in him. Let us confess where we let the world dominate our thinking rather than trusting in our Lord and his ways.

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

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Matthew 9 and James 4*)

**Lord Jesus, you came as a servant to all to teach the ways of God and, even, to die on a cross that we might have eternal life. You told us that "whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all," but we desire to be first and lord over all. We fail to submit ourselves to God as you command. We covet things that belong to others and engage in disputes and conflicts. We place our desires and our position before that of others and before you. Forgive our sin, and grow us in your example — the one who was without sin who came to save the world through death on a cross. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from James 3*)

Let us submit ourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from us. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. As we do, know through God's grace that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

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

**God, our Refuge, as the disciples were arguing about who was first, you, in Christ, demonstrated incredible patience — knowing that you had just shared with them how you would place yourself last for the salvation of humankind. In this day, you demonstrate immense patience toward us, and we offer these tithes in response to this and other blessings. 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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