

Year B; Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for September 26, 2021
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts (Semicontinuous)

- Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
- Psalm 124
- James 5:13-20
- Mark 9:38-50

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 124*)

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us...

All: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies' anger was kindled against us

One: then the flood would have swept us away,

All: the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters.

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

All: who made heaven and earth. Let us worship God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from James 5*)

James writes, "confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven." Let us confess our sins.

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

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from James 5*)

Merciful God, too often when we are distressed, we fail to turn to you and the church. When we are suffering, we may fail to pray. When we are cheerful, we fail to sing songs of praise. When we are sick, we fail to call the elders to pray over us and anoint us with oil in the name of our Lord Jesus. Forgive our sin, we pray, and our misdirected anxiety. Grow us in trust of you and in your word; we pray in Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from James 5*)

James, the brother of Jesus, also, writes, "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." Trust in Jesus and in the forgiveness he has won for humankind. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*IN UNISON, from James 5 and Psalm 124*)

Heavenly Father, you have given us support for every situation. Should our enemies attack us or if their anger would be kindled against us, you are on the side of the righteous and the faithful. If we are suffering, you hear our prayers. If we are cheerful, you give us song to celebrate. If we are sick, you give us elders to pray over us. You heal the sick, and you forgive the sinful through prayers of faith. We offer these small gifts from the abundance that you have given us for the development of 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.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Portions not from the *NRSV* are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

For all other uses or cases, © Copyright 2022, Andrew Smothers, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.