

Year C; Fourth Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for December 19, 2021
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Micah 5:2-5a and Luke 1:47-55
- or Psalm 80:1-7
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

CANTICLE (from *Luke 1*)

One: Our souls magnify the Lord,

All: and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant, Mary.

One: Surely, from now on all generations will call her blessed;

All: for the Mighty One has done great things for her, and holy is his name.

One: His mercy is for those who fear him

All: who fear him from generation to generation.

One: He has shown strength with his arm.

All: Let us worship God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (from *Hebrews 10*)

Jesus announced that God has not desired sacrifices and offerings; in burnt offerings and sin offerings he takes no pleasure. He has abolished this command of the law for something greater — that we would come to do God's will. We have often, though, pursued our will and not God's will. Let us ask God's forgiveness for where we have sinned.

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

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (from *Luke 1*)

Merciful God, you scatter the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. You have brought down the powerful from their thrones. You have sent the rich away empty handed. You, though, lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. Forgive our pride, our selfish exercise of power, and our grasping for wealth. Help us to follow your will — to likewise lift up the lowly and to fill the hungry with good things. We pray this in the name of the one who perfectly follows your will, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Luke 1*)

As Mary expresses, God's mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. Follow God's will, accept his mercy, and rest in his forgiveness. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Hebrews 10*)

Gracious God, though we had sinned and were dead to our sins — though, we pursued selfish goals and failed to follow your ways, you chose to come in human form as a helpless babe. You taught your ways and died that we might have life. It is by your will that we have been justified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. In thankfulness that you did not leave us dead in our sin or unable to pull us out of our evil ways, we offer these gifts for your continued 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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