

Year C; Baptism of the Lord
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 9, 2022
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Isaiah 43:1-7
- Psalm 29
- Acts 8:14-17
- Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 29*)

- One: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
All: ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- One: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
All: worship the Lord in holy splendor.
- One: The voice of the Lord is powerful;
All: the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
- One: The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
All: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness.
- One: The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
All: the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.
- One: May the Lord give strength to his people!
All: May the Lord bless his people with peace! Let us worship God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Luke 3*)

The people came to John the Baptist wondering if he might be the long-awaited Messiah, but he did not take advantage of this opportunity and status. He pointed to the greater one that would follow him and spoke to the greatness of the true Messiah, Jesus. Let us confess where we put ourselves before the Messiah and ask his mercy.

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

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Luke 3*)

Almighty God, you created us in your image to take your image to all the earth. Part of your work to us is that we should point to you and make you known. John modeled this in saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming." We, though, are prone to point to ourselves and to trust in ourselves. Forgive our pride and our selfishness and grow us into the ways of our Messiah. It is in his name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Isaiah 43*)

As God declares through the prophet Isaiah to the Israelites that they are precious in his sight, and honored, and loved by God, so also he declares of us that we are adopted as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ — a royal priesthood. Trust his ways and his love, and know that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Acts 8*)

Holy God, when the apostles heard that people in Samaria had accepted your word, apostles were sent to them to pray with them and to lay hands on them, so they might receive the Holy Spirit. We thank you for apostles, church leaders, and others who have nurtured the faith for multitudes throughout the ages so that we might also believe. With gratefulness for their work and your work through them, we offer these gifts from what you have given us. 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.