

Year C; Fifth Sunday of Easter
Liturgical Elements
Developed for May 15, 2022
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Acts 11:1-18
- Psalm 148:1-14
- Revelation 21:1-6
- John 13:31-35

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 148*)

One: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

One: Praise him, all his angels;

All: praise him, all his host!

One: Let all people and all things praise the name of the Lord,

All: for he commanded and they were created.

One: He established them forever and ever;

All: he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

One: Praise the Lord all kings of the earth and all people, princes and all rulers of the earth!

All: Praise the Lord young men and women alike, old and young together!

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;

All: his glory is above earth and heaven. Praise the Lord!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Acts 11*)

Humans are prone to see groups of people — those like them and those unlike them — whether in nations, tribes, ethnicities, races, or based on other qualities. Let us confess where we have attempted to split God's diverse kingdom into kingdoms of our own making.

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Acts 11*)

God and creator of the heavens and earth — of all that exists — you are one God but a God of diversity in Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You created people of all nations, tribes, and languages. You created people of a diversity of physical characteristics and abilities. All these are created in your image. We, though, too often see divisions. We find affinity groups of various types and determine who is in our group and who is outside our group. Forgive our divisiveness, and help us to see your creation as you do. In the name of our Lord Jesus who is King of all. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Acts 11*)

In the earliest church, believers were split between Jews and Gentiles. Many Jews wondered whether Gentiles could be full participants in the faith. The Holy Spirit told Peter to go to the Gentiles and not to make a distinction between Jews like him and Gentiles. God had given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life. Let us, also, see the repentance that leads to life offered for all people and trust in God's forgiveness in our own lives. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Revelation 21*)

Almighty God, you have promised to make your home among mere mortals. You will dwell with your people as their God, and they will be your peoples. You yourself will be with them, and you, the Almighty God, will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things will have passed away. With hope for this day and with our gratitude for your sure promises, we offer these gifts. Guide our church leaders in investing them 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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