

Year C; First Sunday in Lent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for March 6, 2022
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
- Romans 10:8b-13
- Luke 4:1-13

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 91*)

One: Those who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

All: will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

One: Because they have made the LORD their refuge, the Most High their dwelling place,

All: no evil shall befall them, no courage shall come near their dwelling place.

One: For he will command his angels concerning them to guard them in all their ways.

All: On the hands of angels, they will bear you up, so that they will not dash a foot against a stone.

One: Those who love the LORD, he will deliver; he will protect those who know his name.

All: When they call to him, he will answer them; he will be with them in trouble.

One: He will rescue them and honor them.

All: With long life he will satisfy them, and show them his salvation. Let us worship God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Hebrews 4*)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us confess where we have missed the mark that God has required of us.

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

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(from Luke 4)*

Merciful God, our Lord came and was tempted in the desert after 40 days of fasting but did not sin. Offered the power to make food in every place and time while famished, he trusted you instead. Having been offered power over all nations of the world, he stayed subject to the divine. Offered to test and prove God to himself, he had faith even when you were not obvious to his human nature. We, though, are willing to withdraw our focus from you for physical needs, to bend your commands when it offers us power, and to expect you to prove yourself when we have doubts. Forgive our weak faith and our failures to live the lives you call us to live. In the name of the one who did not sin. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Romans 10)*

The Apostle Paul writes, “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Confess, believe, and know that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

SUMMARY OF THE LAW *(from Matthew 12, Mark 12)¹*

Our Lord Jesus said: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from Deuteronomy 26, Luke 4)*

Gracious God, you promise those who love you, you will deliver. We have no need to create bread out of stones, for you give the world an abundance to share. We have no need to have power over all kingdoms for you promise to guide rulers who seek you. We have no need to test you for you have revealed yourself in human form as testified in the scriptures. You invite us into the work you have already begun to create a perfect Kingdom of Heaven where bread will be sufficiently distributed to all, a perfect and loving King will rule in all corners, and we will be at all times in the presence of God. In thankfulness, we offer these gifts produced from what you have given us. Amen.

¹ The Sharing of the Law or Summary of the Law is, also, taken from memory and based on common liturgy from Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYC).

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.