

**Year C; Third Sunday in Lent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for March 20, 2022**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Isaiah 55:1-09
- Psalm 63:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- Luke 13:1-9

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 63*)

One: O God, you are our God, we seek you,

**All: our souls thirst for you; our flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

One: So we have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

**All: Because your steadfast love is better than life, our lips will praise you.**

One: So we will bless you as long as we live;

**All: we will lift up our hands and call on your name.**

One: You have been our help, and in the shadow of your wings we sing for joy.

**All: Our souls cling to you; your right hand upholds each of us. Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from 1 Corinthians 10*)

The Apostle Paul warns the early church and us not to be unaware. Those who were in the community of Moses were not all faithful; though, they showed signs of faith by passing through the sea, being “baptized” by Moses, and eating the same spiritual food and drink. Let us not be unaware; let us approach the throne of grace confessing our deviations from God’s call.

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

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from 1 Corinthians 10*)

**Merciful God, you call us to perfection following in the perfect example of Christ. We, though, fail to follow his ways. We are immoral, we are idolaters, we put Christ to the test, and we complain as those who followed Moses. Help us to remember the example of the Israelites, and let that example instruct us. Forgive where we have sinned before you, and mold us into Christ’s ways. In the name of that perfect example, Jesus the Messiah. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from 1 Corinthians 10*)

God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. Remember the faulty example of the Israelites, follow the perfect example of Jesus, and know that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

**SUMMARY OF THE LAW** (*from Matthew 12, Mark 12*)<sup>1</sup>

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 1 Corinthians 10, Luke 13*)

**Gracious God, we are a faulty people led by a perfect God. You call us to perfection, but in our failures, you offer us chances to repent. As the fig tree that bears no fruit, you return year after year to see whether we bear fruit. In the end, though, in your efforts to create the perfect Kingdom of Heaven, you will prune those who show no signs of bearing fruit for your Kingdom. It is this perfect Kingdom to which we look forward. In thankfulness and in hopefulness, we offer these gifts for your work. Amen.**

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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