

**Year C; Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for March 27, 2022**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Joshua 5:9-12
- Psalm 32
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 32*)

One: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**All: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

One: While the Psalmist kept silence, his body wasted away through his groaning all day long.

**All: For day and night God's hand was heavy upon him; his strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

One: Then he acknowledged his sin to God, and he did not hide his inappropriate behavior.

**All: He committed to confess his transgressions to the LORD, and God forgave his sin.**

One: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to God; at a time of distress, the mighty waters shall not reach them.

**All: God is a hiding place for all of us; he preserves us from trouble; he surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance. Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Psalm 32*)

The Psalmist writes, "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle." Let us put pride and self-centeredness aside and confess our sins to God.

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

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from 2 Corinthians 5*)

**Merciful God, you are working to create a new creation within us and throughout the world. All of this is from you, who has already reconciled us to you in Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation. We, though, hesitate to reconcile. We resist forgiveness of those who have wronged us. Forgive our lack of forgiveness and lack of reconciliation and continue to mold that new creation out of us and the world. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from 2 Corinthians 5*)

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. Go and work towards the reconciliation of the world to God and to one another and trust in God's forgiveness. **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 Luke 15*)

**Gracious God, though we can stray far away from your will and from your ways, though we can squander the inheritance you have offered us despite that we are undeserving, though we can become angry when you show mercy to those we believe do not deserve it, you welcome us back as royalty with great celebrations and with new gifts. In thankfulness for your patience, your steadfast commitment to us, and all that you offer, we give 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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