

**Year C; Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for April 3, 2022**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Isaiah 43:16-21
- Psalm 126
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- John 12:1-8

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Isaiah 43*)

One: To the Israelites in exile, the LORD commands, “Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.”

**All: The LORD tells them, “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”**

One: He will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

**All: The wild animals will honor him, the jackals and the ostriches.**

One: He will give water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

**All: The LORD will give drink to his chosen people**

One: The people whom he formed for himself

**All: so that his chosen people might declare his praise. Let us praise and worship God!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Philippians 3*)

The Apostle Paul, a witness to the risen Christ, writes of his earthly status, but it is all loss to him because of the Messiah. Let us confess where we seek and take pride in our status above that offered in our Lord Jesus.

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

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Philippians 3*)

**Merciful God, we are a people who try to convince others and ourselves of our worth based on what we have achieved and what we have been. This, though, is nothing — is loss — compared to the status we have in you. We take pride in our personal status and ignore that which you offer us. Help us to live into the status you provide, and help us let go of the status we believe we earn or that was handed on to us. Forgive our misguided focus, and raise us to new life — a life in the One who has status above all others, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Philippians 3*)

Paul writes that he suffers the loss of all things and regards them as rubbish in order that he may gain Christ and be found in him having the righteousness of Christ and not his own — a righteousness from God based on faith. Live into Christ's righteousness based on faith, 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 Philippians 3*)

**Loving God, you offer us the opportunity to know the very ruler of this world. Your scriptures testify to the power of his resurrection so that we might know that power, share in his sufferings, and become like him in death. For as you raised him, you promise to raise us, also. In thankfulness for this generous offering to us, we give an offering from our wealth for your church. 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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