

Year C; Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 23, 2022
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- Psalm 19
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
- Luke 4:14-21

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Gracious God, through your grace, you call us out of this world into your kingdom and assign us work in that kingdom. You give us honorable roles, and you unite us into one body. Grow your Holy Spirit within us to make known those roles and tasks to us, embolden us for that work, and unite us in one Lord and in one Spirit. Make us worthy of your call through Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 19)*

- One: The heavens are telling the glory of God;
All: and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- One: The law of the Lord is perfect reviving the soul;
All: the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
- One: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
All: the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;
- One: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever;
All: the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
- One: Moreover by them is your servant warned;
All: in keeping them there is great reward. Let us worship and follow God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** *(from Psalm 19)*

The Psalmist continues from our Call to Worship with, “But who can detect their errors?” Let us humbly approach our God, search deep within us, listen to the Holy Spirit’s convictions of us, and confess our sins to God.

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

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Psalm 19*)

Merciful God, we search within ourselves and know we cannot even bring to mind all of the ways we violate your will by doing what you command us not to do or failing to do what you command us to do. In your mercy, hear our petitions, and forgive us the sins we know we have committed but also our hidden faults. Grow us into servants obedient to your will. Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Luke 4*)

Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor — when all those who were indebted would be set free. If you have been captive to sin or indebted to God in sin, live into freedom in Christ and know that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Nehemiah 8*)

Gracious God, you gave Moses and the wandering Israelites your law. Through Jesus, you gave your spiritual law. Rather than leaving our world to its own evil desires and tendencies, you have given us the way to life. This great gift when read to the Israelites who returned from the exile brought them to tears of grief and new commitment. In thankfulness that you have given us your moral law summarized in loving you with our whole being and loving our neighbor as ourselves, we offer these gifts that the law may be known and followed throughout the world. 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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