

Year A; First Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for November 27, 2022
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Isaiah 2:1-5
- Psalm 122:1-9
- Romans 13:11-14
- Matthew 24:36-44

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Isaiah 2*)

One: In the days to come the mountains of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains;

All: the Lord's house shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

One: Many peoples shall come and say, "Come let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob;

All: that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

One: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

All: He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

One: they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and the spears into pruning hooks;

All: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

One: O peoples of the earth,

All: come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Romans 13*)

We like to satisfy the desires of our flesh and to gratify our selfish desires. God calls us to lay aside the works of darkness and to put on the armor of light. Let us confess our sin and put on the protection of bringing our sin into the light with God.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Romans 13*)

Merciful God, we let the desires of the flesh and our own selfish desires rule our lives too often. Sometimes we believe we can hide our actions from others and from you. We confess those sins we would like to hide in darkness and pray that you would enable us to live honorably. Forgive when we might have been out of control, indulged ourselves against your law, quarreled, or demonstrated jealousy toward our neighbor. We pray that you would cover us with our Lord Jesus Christ; it is in his name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Romans 13*)

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans that salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers. Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, trust in the forgiveness won by him through the cross, and prepare for the eternal life demonstrated by him in his resurrection. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Isaiah 2*)

Almighty and loving God, we live in a world where war and violence continue too often to be a way to address conflict. You give us a better way — a way you have promised awaits us in the days to come. One day swords will be beat into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Implements of war and violence will one day be remade into implements to sustain us. With hope and thankfulness for that promised day, we offer these gifts to further your kingdom. 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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