

**Year A; Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for December 11, 2022**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Isaiah 35:1-10
- Psalm 146:5-10
  - or Luke 1:47-55
- James 5:7-10
- Matthew 11:2-11

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 146*)

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is the LORD their God,

**All: who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them;**

One: who keeps faith forever;

**All: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.**

One: The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**All: the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.**

One: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**All: the LORD loves the righteous.**

One: The LORD watches over the strangers;

**All: he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

One: The LORD will reign forever,

**All: your God, O peoples, for all generations. Praise and worship the LORD!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from James 5*)

The author of the letter of James commands us to be patient until the coming of the Lord. We often struggle with patience; let us confess where we have failed to follow this command.

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from James 5*)

**Everlasting God, you have exhibited tremendous patience with your people through the ages. Even today, you demonstrate patience with us in our impatience. Forgive us when we are not patient with you and with one another. Forgive us when we grumble against one another and risk judgment. Help us to demonstrate the patience of our Lord Jesus and of the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord even when it brought disinterest and even persecution from those who were around them. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who was patient to the cross. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Isaiah 35)*

God has promised to come and save us. The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will leap, the speechless will sing for joy, and the creation will be shown to all in abundance and beauty. He will make a Holy Way, which will be safe. Even a fool will not go astray. He offers everlasting joy and gladness. Through him, trust that you are forgiven and may be shown this Holy Way. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from Luke 1)*

**Gracious God, you do great things for those who follow you, and your name is holy. Those who fear you receive your mercy, you lift up the lowly, and you fill the hungry with good things. We offer these gifts from the abundance you have given us. Receive our thankfulness and our offerings for the benefit of 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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