

Year A; Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 15, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Isaiah 49:1-7
- Psalm 40:1-11
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
- John 1:29-42

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 40*)

One: Happy are those who make the LORD their trust,

All: who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

One: The LORD, our God, has multiplied wonderful deeds and thoughts toward us;

All: none can compare with the LORD.

One: Were we to proclaim and tell of them,

All: they would be more than can be counted.

One: We delight to do the will of our God;

All: the law of God is written on our hearts.

One: We proclaim the glad news of deliverance;

All: we proclaim God's saving help within our hearts.

One: We speak of God's faithfulness and salvation.

All: We do not conceal God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

One: Do not, O LORD, withhold your mercy from us;

All: let your steadfast love and faithfulness keep us safe forever. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from John 1*)

John the Baptist showed his humility as Jesus was coming toward him in saying, "This is the one of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'" Following the ways taught by our society, we are often too quick to point to ourselves and our importance rather than others whom God has sent. Let us confess our sin to God.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from John 1*)

Almighty God, John the Baptist showed great humility in pointing to one greater than he and in suffering to death to be a herald of your message. Our world presses on us that we need to advertise ourselves rather than others, and we too often follow the ways of the world instead of your ways. Forgive our pride and our lack of trust in you. You have called many and various people to your work; help us to point to their work and their calling when appropriate. Let us, also, point to our Lord Jesus Christ who is the author and perfecter of our faith; it is in his name that we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from 1 Corinthians 1)*

The Apostle Paul addresses those sanctified in Christ Jesus and those who call on his name in sharing that Christ Jesus will strengthen us to the end so that we may be found blameless on the day of our Lord. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Trust and live in him, and be assured of the forgiveness won for you by him. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from John 1)*

Loving God, you sent your Son into the world to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He became the once and for all sacrifice for our sin; though, he committed no sin. Through his sacrifice, we may be forgiven and reconciled to you. We may be partakers in abundant, eternal life. With our thanksgiving, please accept these offerings as a portion of what you have enabled us to profit. 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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