

Year A; Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 22, 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 27*)

One: The LORD is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

All: The LORD is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?

One: One thing we asked of the LORD, that will we seek after:

All: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of our lives,

One: to behold the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his holy places.

All: For he will hide us in his shelter in the day of trouble;

One: he will conceal us under the cover of his tent;

All: he will set us high on a rock. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from 1 Corinthians 1*)

The Apostle Paul appeals to the church in Corinth to be in agreement and to set aside divisions. We, too often, are slow to set aside our personal desires and interpretations for the conclusions of the larger body in the church and in other spheres. Let us confess where we sow division rather than unity.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*30 seconds*)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from 1 Corinthians 1*)

Holy Trinity, unity of three in one, you demonstrate what deep relationship and unity can be among a diversity. Paul challenged the early church in its allegiances behind Apollos, Peter, and Paul and apart from Christ. Today, we may pick other people and causes with which to align. Free us from the idolatry of placing these before our Lord, and help us to place our ultimate allegiance in our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us, also, to appreciate the discernment of others and the conclusions of the body. Grow your Holy Spirit in us that we might rightly interpret the scriptures and to place our trust in you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from 1 Corinthians 1*)

The Apostle Paul writes, "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." Through Jesus Christ, God has chosen to save those who are in Christ. Place your trust in him, and know that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Matthew 4)*

Faithful God, when our Lord called his disciples, he said, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Through people through the ages, our Lord has pursued many and various people. In this age, he has called and pursued each of us despite our unworthiness and our sinfulness. With our thanksgiving for your unfailing faithfulness, we offer these tithes for the work of the church. Guide our church leaders to invest them for his kingdom purposes. 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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