

Year A; Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 29, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Micah 6:1-8
- Psalm 15
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- Matthew 5:1-12

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Matthew 5*)

One: When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, sat, and began teaching his disciples.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

All: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

One: Blessed are those who mourn,

All: for they will be comforted.

One: Blessed are the meek,

All: for they will inherit the earth.

One: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

All: for they will be filled.

One: Blessed are the merciful,

All: for they will receive mercy.

One: Blessed are the pure in heart,

All: for they will see God.

One: Blessed are the peacemakers,

All: for they will be called children of God.

One: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

All: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

One: Blessed are we when people revile and persecute and utter all kinds of evil against us falsely on account of Jesus,

All: for we will rejoice and be glad for our reward is great in heaven.

One: With assurance of God's promises, let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Psalm 15*)

The Psalmist writes, "O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell in your holy hill?" It is those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart. We have not been blameless, we have not always done what is right, and we have not always spoken truth. Let us confess our sin.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*30 seconds*)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from Micah 6)*

Father of mercies, you have told us what is good and what you require of us. You have told us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you. We, however, are unjust. We share untruths for our benefit, and we pursue our interest before those of others. We have failed to show kindness. We have let our pride interfere with our relationship with you and others. Grow our justice, our kindness, and our humility in all our days. We pray this in the name of the one who was perfectly just, kind, and humble — the only one who was truly blameless, our Lord Jesus the Messiah. 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)*

Almighty and loving God, we live in a world that often pushes us down with standards we cannot meet, but your standards are not the world’s standards; your ways are not the world’s ways. You choose what the world sees as foolish and as weak and as low and as despised. You raise us from our humble abilities to purposes in God’s kingdom, which is far loftier than anything the world pursues. We offer our thanks with these gifts from what you have already provided us. 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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