

**Year A; First Sunday in Lent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for February 26, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
- Psalm 32
- Romans 5:12-19
- Matthew 4:1-11

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 32*)

One: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**All: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

One: While we may keep silent, our bodies will waste away through our groaning all day long.

**All: For day and night, the LORD's hand may be heavy upon us; our strength may dry up as by the heat of summer.**

One: If we acknowledge our sin to the LORD and do not hide our iniquity;

**All: if we say "We will confess our transgressions to the LORD,"**

One: he will forgive the guilt of our sin.

**All: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to the LORD; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty water shall not reach them.**

One: The LORD is a hiding place for us;

**All: he preserves us from trouble; he surrounds us with glad cries of deliverance. Let us worship God!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Genesis 2-3*)

God was gracious when he gave our earliest ancestors boundaries in saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat." We, sometimes, violate God's boundaries while failing to see the abundance he offers us and the limited boundaries he places. Let us confess when we have exaggerated God's limitations or gone outside his boundaries.

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*30 seconds*)

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Genesis 2-3*)

**Father of mercies, out of your love and concern for all of us, you have given us immense freedom and limited boundaries. We, though, like to test your boundaries and to complain of your limitations. Forgive our sin. You have created us in your image as you created Adam and Eve to take your image and your ways throughout the world. Clean that image within us so that the world might see your image and your ways through us. In the name of your Son, we ask your mercy. Amen.**

**KYRIE ELEISON**

**SUMMARY OF THE LAW** (*from Matthew 22*)<sup>1</sup>

Our Lord Jesus said: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Romans 5*)

The Apostle Paul testifies that sin initially came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, but the grace of God brought a free gift through one man, Jesus Christ. This free gift of righteousness brings justification through an abundance of grace and life for all.

**All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Genesis 2-3*)

**God of grace, Adam and Eve violated your requirements, but you did not end relationship with them. Likewise, we have sinned against your law, but you continue to draw us back and to offer fellowship with us. Derived from our thankfulness, we offer these gifts for your work. Guide our church leaders to invest them wisely. Amen.**

---

<sup>1</sup> The Sharing of the Law or Summary of the Law is, also, taken from memory and based on common liturgy from Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYC)

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.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Portions not from the *NRSV* are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

For all other uses or cases, © Copyright 2022, Andrew Smothers, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.