

**Year A; Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for March 5, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Genesis 12:1-4a
- Psalm 121
- Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
- John 3:1-17

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 121*)

One: We lift up our eyes to the hills — from where will our help come?

**All: Our help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

One: The LORD will not let our feet be moved; he who keeps us will not slumber.

**All: He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.**

One: The LORD is our keeper; the LORD is our shade at our right hand.

**All: The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.**

One: The LORD will keep us from all evil; he will keep our lives.

**All: The LORD will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore. Let us worship God!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Romans 4*)

Too often, we try to justify ourselves through our own works. We believe our true righteousness comes from what we accomplish or what we know or who we know. If we try to justify ourselves through our actions, we fall very far from the mark. God's expectation of us is perfection. Let us confess the times when we have relied on ourselves to demonstrate righteousness.

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

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Romans 4*)

**God, our righteousness, we confess that we have too often seen ourselves righteous through our own actions. We have pointed to things we have done, people we know, and what we know to convince others and ourselves that we are righteous. Our Lord Jesus is the only human who is righteous; we have violated your law and can never attain true righteousness of our own. Forgive our sin, we pray. Help us to see our righteousness only through Jesus and through his sacrifice on the cross. Sanctify us through your Spirit that one day we may be made righteous through your work of transformation and forgiveness. 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 4*)

While God’s expectation of us is perfection, he recognizes our struggle. As with Abraham, he offers us faith as a free gift — for us faith in Jesus, who is our salvation. That faith in Jesus offers us a righteousness that is from God.

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Romans 4*)

**Gracious God, if we were left to address our unrighteousness on our own, death would be the only option. Through your loving grace, you have provided us another option through our Lord Jesus Christ. You have given us faith in Jesus to justify us and to be our righteousness as you work to perfect us and ready us for your perfect kingdom. With our gratitude we offer these gifts for the further realization of that kingdom. Amen.**

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<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.

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