

**Year A; Third Sunday in Lent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for March 12, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Psalm 95
- Romans 5:1-11
- John 4:5-42

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 95*)

One: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**All: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

One: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

**All: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

One: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**All: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

One: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

**All: Let us, the LORD's sheep, worship our God!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Exodus 17*)

When the Israelites journeyed through the wilderness, they grumbled for lack of water. Ready to turn back to Egypt, they accused Moses of intending to kill them, their children, and their livestock. Let us confess when we have grumbled about God or his ways or even been ready to turn to the ways of the world.

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

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Exodus 17; John 4*)

**Gracious God, as the Israelites grumbled in the wilderness for lack of water, we, also, grumble at times when we don't have all that we desire. We can follow the ways of the world in frustration with your ways. We can be jealous of what we had previously or what others around us have. Forgive our sin, and lead us into your ways and into your promised, everlasting life. Help us to seek living water and the food that is the will of the Father to complete his work. In the name of the Savior of the world, Jesus. 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*)

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

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

**Almighty and loving God, though we were your enemies due to sin, you chose to reconcile us to you through the death of your Son. Though we were undeserving, you chose to save us by his life. You abounded in grace towards us. With our thanks, we offer these tithes to continue the work of your church. In the name of Jesus we pray. 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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