

Year A; Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for February 5, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)
- Psalm 112:1-9, (10)
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)
- Matthew 5:13-20

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 112*)

One: Praise the LORD! Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.

All: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

One: Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

All: They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

One: It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

All: For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

One: They are not afraid of evil reports; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

All: Their hearts are steady, they will not be afraid; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

One: They have distributed freely, they have given to the poor; their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

All: The wicked see it and are angry; they gnash their teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked comes to nothing. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Matthew 5*)

Jesus commands us to be the salt of the earth, but we can be salt that loses its taste. He calls us to be the light of the world, but we can hide our light. Let us confess where we sin against God's commands.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*30 seconds*)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Matthew 5*)

Father of mercies, you call us to be the salt of the earth, but too often we can look like the world and not as your servants. The world beckons us, and we can be distracted or fear being excluded and follow its ways. You call us to be the light of the world, but when that light might be ridiculed or too bright or embarrassing, we hide that light and let the darkness overcome. Forgive our sin, we pray, in the name of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from 1 Corinthians 2)*

The ways of God are foolishness to the world, but God has given us his Spirit that we might have the mind of Christ. Listen to the Spirit, let it reveal to you what is true. Those in whom the Spirit dwells can discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. It is the Spirit sent by the Father and the Son who will also make known the forgiveness won for us in Jesus Christ.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from 1 Corinthians 2)*

God, our shepherd, you have given us your commandments to follow, but you do not leave us alone. You have given us your very Spirit so that we may understand the gifts you lovingly bestow upon us. You have given us your Spirit to discern all things — a Spirit that has access to your depths and can reveal to us what we need to know. In thankfulness for these wondrous gifts, we offer these tithes for the expansion of your kingdom. 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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