

Year A; Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for February 12, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Deuteronomy 30:15-20
- Psalm 119:1-8
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
- Matthew 5:21-37

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 119*)

One: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in your law, O LORD.

All: Happy are those who keep your decrees, who seek you with their whole heart,

One: who also do no wrong, but walk in your ways.

All: You have commanded your instructions to be kept diligently.

One: O that our ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

All: Then we shall not be put to shame, having our eyes fixed on all your commandments, O LORD.

One: We will praise you with an upright heart, when we learn your righteous ordinances.

All: We will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake us. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Matthew 5*)

Jesus appears to expand the law during the Sermon on the Mount. Not only our physical actions matter, but our words, our thoughts, and our heart matter. Let us confess our sin when we have allowed a part of our whole self stray from loving God and when we have failed to love people.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*30 seconds*)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Matthew 5*)

Loving God, your commandments instruct us not to physically murder another human, but they go further than this. Harboring anger toward another, insulting our brother or sister, and even calling them “You fool” can place us under your judgment. Further, you require that all of our answers be straightforward, honest, and true. We have violated your ways at the expense of our brother and our sister, and we come before you requesting your mercy and your forgiveness. Restore us, and sanctify us that we might be those who love you with our whole selves and love our neighbor as ourselves. Perfect us that we might be a reconciling people rather than a divisive people. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Deuteronomy 30)*

Moses taught the Israelites that if they obeyed the LORD their God by loving him, by walking in his ways, and by observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, they would live and become numerous. We have access to more of God's plan; through his Son, we may be forgiven and offered eternal life.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from 1 Corinthians 3)*

Gracious God, you could have placed us in a world without knowledge of what you desire from us. Instead, through Moses, you gave us your moral law that we might know how to live. More recently, you have given us your Son, that we might know better how that should be lived out. Your law can be difficult, but it is wise; it can be self-sacrificing, but it is loving. With thanksgiving, we give back these offerings from the portion you have lovingly given 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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