

Year A; Easter/Resurrection Sunday
Liturgical Elements
Developed for April 9, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Acts 10:34-43
 - Or Jeremiah 31:1-6
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- Colossians 3:1-4
 - Or Acts 10:34-43
- John 20:1-18
 - Or Matthew 28:1-10

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 118*)

One: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

All: Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

One: The LORD is our strength and our might; he has become our salvation.

All: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

One: the right hand of the LORD is exalted;

All: the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

One: We shall not die, but we shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

All: Open to us the gates of righteousness, that we may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

One: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

All: We thank you that you have answered us and have become our salvation.

One: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

All: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

One: This is the day that the LORD has made;

All: let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us worship God!

Call to Worship (*alternate, from Psalm 118*)

One: The Lord is our strength and our might; he has become our salvation.

All: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous.

One: I thank Him that he has answered us and has become our salvation.

All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

One: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

All: Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION *(from Acts 10)*

God ordained Jesus as judge of the living and the dead. But this judge is one who went about doing good in the world and healing all who were oppressed by the devil for God was with him. Let us come before the ultimate, loving judge and confess our sins.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(alternate, from John 15)*

The Gospel of John notes the words of Jesus in “no one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” But this is exactly what our Lord did for each of us that we might be forgiven and have everlasting life if we place our belief and trust in him. In whom could we more greatly trust with our requests for forgiveness? Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(30 seconds)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Acts 10)*

Jesus commanded his followers to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Acts 10)*

Almighty and loving God, we can be partial to a particular group or people, but you do not show partiality. In every nation anyone who fears you and does what is right is acceptable to you. You open the door of forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life even to people such as us. We give these gifts for your work and the work of your church in thankfulness for all you have offered. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of mercy and grace, you have walked with a disobedient people through the history of humanity. Despite, this you remain faithful and at work — working to continue to reconcile a people who turn their back on you time and time again. Thank you for your faithful pursuit. Thank you that you allow us to go our way but welcome us back as we find again the true faith and true trust you have offered us as a free gift. Father, we thank you, particularly, that you decided to come and dwell with humanity on earth — that through our Lord Jesus you would teach and heal and model how we should, also, serve you and the people around us. Thank you that you suffered death so that we might enjoy eternal life. Have your scriptures continue to testify the same to us that we might be fully sanctified and that we might serve alongside you in bringing the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. For gifts the church receives in the coming week, we thank you for enabling us to give and ask that the church use those to your glory. In the name of the one who lives and reigns with you in heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ. **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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