

**Year A; Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for May 7, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Acts 7:55-60
- Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
- 1 Peter 2:2-10
- John 14:1-14

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 31*)

One: In you, O LORD, we seek refuge; do not let us ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver us.

**All: Incline your ear to us; rescue us speedily. Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress to save us.**

One: You are indeed our rock and our fortress; for your name's sake lead us and guide us,

**All: take us out of the net that is hidden for us, for you are our refuge.**

One: Into your hand we commit our spirits; you have redeemed us, O LORD, faithful God.

**All: Our times are in your hand; deliver us from the hand of our enemies and persecutors.**

One: Let your face shine upon your servants; save us in your steadfast love.

**All: Let us worship the one who saves: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*alternate, from Psalm 31*)

One: You are indeed our rock and our fortress, O God,

**All: for your name's sake lead us and guide us.**

One: Into your worthy hands we commit our spirits;

**All: you have redeemed us, O Lord, faithful God.**

One: Let your face shine upon your servants;

**All: save us in your steadfast love.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from 1 Peter 2*)

God invites us to become a people — his people, but we so often want to be our own person. We look to self-interests and not to God-interests. God shows mercy to us and calls us to repent. Let us now confess our sins and invite God's promised mercy in repentance. Let us pray.

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

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from 1 Peter 2*)

**Merciful God, you are working to gather all people to yourself — inviting them into your kingdom through your mercy, but we so often go astray. We focus on our self-interests or on world-interests that we sometimes assume are better than your own. You invite us to be a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, your own people for the purpose of proclaiming your mighty acts. We too often hide in darkness when that opportunity for proclamation is before us. Build our courage and protect us as we grow into the people you call us to be. We pray and ask that you would forgive our sin and grow us into your royal and priestly people. In the name of the one who calls us sisters and brothers, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from 1 Peter 2*)

Peter writes to the church, “once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” Receive God’s mercy and know that you are forgiven. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (*from John 14*)

**God, our righteousness, you calm our hearts and invite us to trust in you. Our Savior goes to prepare a place for us in your house where there are many dwelling places. You promise to come back and to take us to yourself so that we will be there with you. Many years ago, you performed many miraculous works that have been recorded in scripture and give us assurance of these promises. Please accept these gifts with our gratitude that more may be welcomed into your house with many dwelling places. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (alternate, *from 1 Peter 2*)

**Thank you, Lord, that you do invite us into your family and into your work. You offer that you can be our refuge and that through you we will not be shamed. You offer us deliverance in your righteousness both in life and in death. You are a very worthy one in whom to commit our life and being and spirit. As God and human, you chose us as your people — a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and your own people. In thankfulness for all that you have done for us and continue to do for us, we offer these offerings given to the church in your name and for your work. Guide our session and other leaders to use this as you designate. 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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