

Year A; Sixth Sunday of Easter
Liturgical Elements
Developed for May 14, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Acts 17:22-31
- Psalm 66:8-20
- 1 Peter 3:13-22
- John 14:15-21

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 66*)

One: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

All: who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

One: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

All: Though you might bring us into the net or might lay burdens on our back;

One: though you might let people ride over our heads; though we might go through fire and through water;

All: yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

One: We will come into your house with offerings; we will pay our vows,

All: those our mouths promised when we were in trouble.

One: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and we will tell what he has done for us.

All: We cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with our tongues.

One: Should we cherish iniquity in our hearts, the Lord would not have listened.

All: But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of our prayers.

One: Blessed be God, because he has not rejected our prayers

All: or removed his steadfast love from us. Let us worship God!

CALL TO WORSHIP (*alternate, from Psalm 66*)

One: Bless our God, O peoples,

All: let the sound of his praise be heard.

One: Come and hear, all you who fear God,

All: and I will tell what he has done for me.

One: I cried aloud to him,

All: and he was enthusiastically praised with my tongue.

One: If I had cherished sinfulness in my heart,

All: the Lord would not have listened.

One: But truly God has listened;

All: he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

All: Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Acts 17*)

While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent. He has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged by our Lord Jesus, who was righteous, and he has assured us through raising this same Jesus from the dead. Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*about 30 seconds*)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from 1 Peter 3*)

Gracious God, Peter shares your word in that even if we suffer for doing what is right, we are blessed. You call us to always be ready to make our defense to anyone who demands from us an accounting for the hope that is in us. Sometimes, though, we lose hope; we fail to remember the tremendous hope you offer us. Other times, we choose to hide our hope from others or to give a shallow accounting for the hope you offer us. Forgive our sin, O Lord, and remind us of the hope we have in you. Give us the courage to offer that accounting, and remind us we are better in suffering for what is good than, later, being put to shame. We pray this in the name of the one in whom our hope resides: our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (ALTERNATE, IN UNISON)

Father, we come before you for the sins that we have committed — the things that are outside of your intentions of us. We come before you, also, for the sins of omission — the things we have failed to do that have been outside of your will. Help us to turn away from this path and into repentance, and forgive us our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from 1 Peter 3*)

Be at peace and know that you are forgiven! For Christ suffered for the sins of all — the Righteous One for the unrighteous. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit. The one who suffered that we might be forgiven now resides in heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*from 1 Peter 3*)

Father of compassion and God of all comfort, thank you first for sending your Son to model life and faith to us. Thank you for his faithfulness and willingness to die for us, the righteous for the unrighteous, that we might be forgiven and offered eternal life. Finally, thank you for his interceding for us to you, our Father, as we pray. We offer our offerings of time, talent, and finances in thanksgiving for all that you have done for us. In the name of the only Righteous One, our Lord Jesus the Messiah. 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.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Portions not from the *NRSV* are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

For all other uses or cases, © Copyright 2022, Andrew Smothers, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.