

**Year A; Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for April 23, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Acts 2:14a, 36-41
- Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
- 1 Peter 1:17-23
- Luke 24:13-35

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 116*)

One: We love the LORD, because he has heard our voices and our supplications.

**All: Because he inclined his eye to us, therefore we will call on him as long as we live.**

One: The snares of death may encompass us; the pangs of Sheol may lay hold of us; we may suffer distress and anguish.

**All: Then we will call on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, we pray, save our lives!"**

One: What shall we return to the LORD for all his bounty to us?

**All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

One: we will pay our vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

**All: O LORD, we are your servants; you have loosed our bonds.**

One: We will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

**All: We will pay our vows to the LORD in the presence of his people,**

One: in the courts of the house of the LORD.

**All: Let us praise and worship the LORD!**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*alternate, from Psalm 116:1-11*)

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

**All: Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."**

One: The Lord is our strength and our might

**All: he has become our salvation.**

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.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Acts 2*)

The Book of the Acts of the Apostles commands us to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. In so doing, our sins may be forgiven, and we may receive the Holy Spirit. Let us now confess our sins and repent or turn away from the wrongs we commit or the good we fail to commit. Let us pray.

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

**Merciful God, we too often are informed by the world's futile ways. We forget our Lord and the sacrifice he made on our behalf. Forgive our turning away from you and our turning to the world and its ways. Remind us of Jesus' resurrection that we might trust, have faith, and have hope in you, O God. Purify our souls and make us obedient to your truth. In the name of the one you raised and crowned with glory, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways of the world, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from Luke 24)*

**Gracious God, thank you that our Lord Jesus, both of God and of human, was willing to live with people such as us. Thank you that he journeyed on earth to show us the way, the truth, and the life. More yet, thank you that he journeyed to the cross enduring abuse, torture, and death that we might be forgiven and have eternal life. May his resurrection continue to testify to us, build our faith, and grow our hope. May we likewise extend that hope to the world around us in his name. Use gifts given to the church to extend that hope and to testify to our Lord Jesus, the Messiah. It is in his name that we pray. 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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