

**Year A; Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for April 30, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Acts 2:42-47
- Psalm 23
- 1 Peter 2:19-25
- John 10:1-10

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 23*)

One: The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want.

**All: He makes us lie down in green pastures; he leads us beside still waters; he restores our souls.**

One: He leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

**All: Even though we might walk through the darkest of valleys, we fear no evil; for he is with us; his rod and his staff — they comfort us.**

One: He prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies; he anoints our heads with oil; our cups overflow.

**All: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord our whole lives long. Let us worship God!**

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

The Righteous One, our Lord Jesus Christ, committed no sin and no deceit was found in his mouth. When he was abused, he did not return abuse. When he suffered, he did not threaten. This is God's calling to each of us, but, yet, we fall short of this calling. Let us pray.

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

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

**Gracious God, thank you for the example of our Lord Jesus the Messiah who committed no sin and expressed no deceit. Unlike Jesus, we are prone to mislead others or to hide aspects of our lives from others. When we are abused, we are prone to lash out and cause harm to others, but he did not. When we suffer, we are prone to threaten or to belittle others, but he did not. Our Lord entrusted himself to you, O God, who judges justly, but we are prone to look to our own solutions to bring our own justice or injustice to others. Forgive our sin, O Lord, and complete your work in us that we might reflect the one risen, our Lord Jesus. Amen.**

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

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness. Know that by his wounds, you are healed and forgiven, and live for righteousness. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from John 10*)

**Gracious God, despite our sinfulness, you offer us an opportunity for abundant life now and in eternity. You have offered your Son, who is the gate for his sheep. We hear his voice, recognize his voice, and follow him. You have offered salvation to those who follow him and freedom to come in and go out and find his pasture. With our thankfulness, we give these gifts from the abundance you have offered us in his name. Guide our church leaders to invest them wisely for your kingdom. 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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