

Year A; Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for June 18, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7
- Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
- Romans 5:1-8
- Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

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 ear to us, therefore, we will call on him as long as we live.

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.

All: Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

One: O LORD, we are your servants;

All: we are your servants, the child of your serving girl. 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 all his people.

One: We will do this in the courts of the house of the LORD.

All: Let us worship and praise the LORD!

CALL TO WORSHIP (*alternate, from Psalm 116*)

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.
We will pay our vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.**

One: In the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem, and throughout the world.

All: Praise the Lord! Let us worship God.

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Romans 5*)

As the Apostle Paul notes in Romans, we are still weak. Rather than allowing suffering to produce endurance in us and endurance to produce character and character to build hope, which does not disappoint, we too often shy away from God's transformative ways. Let us pray.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Romans 5*)

God of grace, we too often shy away from suffering when it is placed in our path. Build in us a willingness to be transformed and to work to transform the world. May your kingdom come and be exhibited through all the earth. As we encounter suffering, be true to your word and produce within us endurance, having that endurance produce character, and having that character produce hope — a hope that does not disappoint. We pray this in the name of the One who modeled suffering for your purposes. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Romans 5*)

Know that when we come before God, confess our sins, and repent or turn the other way, God is faithful. For while we were still weak, Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Romans 5*)

Merciful God, without Jesus and his work on the cross, we are left in misery. Unable to save ourselves from sin, from self-centeredness, and from the ways of the world, we had little hope. Thank you for sending your Son to teach us the ways of heaven and to die so that we might be saved and might live eternally. You offer us faith, which justifies us. You offer us peace even with God. Thank you for the many blessings you offer us. In response, we bring these offerings and ask that you would bless them for the work of the church, the bride of Christ. In the name of the One to whom we owe salvation. Amen.

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