

Year A; Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for July 9, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
- Psalm 45:10-17
 - Or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
- Romans 7:15-25a
- Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Matthew 11*)

One: The Gospel of Matthew quotes Jesus telling those who are weary:

All: Come to me. I will give you rest.

One: Those who are carrying heavy burdens:

All: Come to me. I will give you rest.

One: He is gentle and humble in heart. In him, you will find rest for your souls.

All: For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light. Let us worship God.

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Romans 7*)

As Paul wrestles, we also wrestle in doing what we do not want but doing the very thing we hate or strive to eliminate. Let us confess our sins and ask God for the strength to overcome them.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Romans 7*)

Merciful God, we strive to eliminate sin from our lives but as Paul, we fall back into sinful patterns. Strengthen and embolden us in this fight. Make known to us the sins that we commit, and may we overcome that sin through your Holy Spirit's work within us. Forgive us our sins, and lead us to repentance. In the name of the one who committed no sin. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*Matthew 11*)

The Gospel of Matthew testifies to our Lord Jesus the Messiah who is gentle and humble in heart. He calls us to come to him and offers us forgiveness and eternal life in return. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator God, all that surrounds us relies on your divine creation. All that we have originates with you. You have blessed us in many ways and sustain us in every moment. With our thanksgiving, accept our dedication of our talents and gifts,

time, and finances for your purposes and for the work of your church, the bride of Christ. 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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