

**Year A; Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for July 16, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Genesis 25:19-34
- Psalm 119:105-112
- Romans 8:1-11
- Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 119*)

One: Your word, O God, is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

**All: We have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.**

One: When we are severely afflicted; give us life, O LORD, according to your word.

**All: Accept our offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach us your ordinances.**

One: We hold our lives in our hands continually, but we do not forget your law.

**All: The wicked may lay a snare for us, but we do not stray from your precepts.**

One: Your decrees are our heritage forever; they are the joy of our hearts.

**All: We incline our heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end. Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (alternate, *from Psalm 119*)

One: Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to my feet

**All: and a light to my path**

One: Accept our offering of praise, O Lord,

**All: and teach us your ordinances.**

One: Your decrees are our heritage forever; they are the joy of our hearts.

**All: We incline our hearts to perform your statutes forever, to the end. Let us worship God.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Romans 8*)

Paul writes, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death." Let us confess our sins to God.

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Romans 8*)

**Gracious God, you send your Holy Spirit to dwell within us — to transform us into the people you intend us to be. Still, we cling to the flesh and, at times, walk by the flesh. Forgive our sins, and embolden us to live entirely by the Spirit. In the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Romans 8*)

Paul also writes that God sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. Through the Son, we are able to live according to the Spirit, which is life and peace. Be at peace and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Matthew 13*)

**Faithful God, we thank you for our ancestors and others who spread the Christian faith that we might also believe. Thank you for ensuring there was good soil where the harvest would be great. Continue to use us and others to allow others to know you — prepare the soil for our continued work. In thankfulness, we offer these gifts for your work and the work of the church in the world. In the name of Jesus, who came to earth that we might believe. 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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