

Year A; Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for July 30, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 29:15-28
- Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
 - Or Psalm 128:1-6
- Romans 8:26-39
- Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 105*)

- One: O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.
- All: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**
- One: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- All: Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.**
- One: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,
- All: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**
- One: He is the LORD our God; his judgments are in all the earth.
- All: He is mindful of his covenant for ever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,**
- One: the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,
- All: which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,**
- One: saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."
- All: Let us praise and worship the LORD!**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*alternate, from Psalm 105*)

- One: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
- All: make known his deeds among the peoples.**
- One: Sing to him, sing praises to him;
- All: tell of all his wonderful works.**
- One: Glory in his holy name;
- All: let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**
- One: Remember the wonderful works he has done,
- All: his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered. Praise the Lord!**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (alternate, *from Psalm 128*)

One: Happy is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways.

All: You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

One: Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

All: Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

One: The LORD bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

All: May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel! Let us worship God!

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (alternate, *from Psalm 128*)

{Note: this form incorporates more gender neutrality for humans and widens Jerusalem to the city}

One: Happy is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways.

All: You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

One: Your family will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

All: Thus shall the person be blessed who fears the LORD.

One: The LORD bless you. May you see the prosperity of the city all the days of your life.

All: May you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel! Let us worship God!

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

If God is for us, who is against us? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. With the assurance of God's protection, love, and forgiveness, let us come before God humbly in prayer.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

Faithful God, your commitment to us is overwhelming. You promise nothing can ultimately prevail against those you have chosen, and no charge can stick to your elect. Despite your faithfulness, O God, we still struggle with sin, and we dishonor your faithfulness to us. We commit both sins of commission and omission. Grow our faithfulness to your covenant with us, O God, and forgive our sins as you continue to transform us. In the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

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

Paul's words in Romans reassure us. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. Those he predestined, he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. Continue to be conformed into the image of God's Son, and know that you are forgiven. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Romans 8*)

Loving God, your scriptures testify to Jesus, whom you sent, who died, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, and who intercedes for us to God, the Father. Thank you that despite the unfaithfulness and sinfulness of humanity, you faithfully keep your covenant with us and found a way to work to restore your creation to your good intentions. In thankfulness for the many blessings you provide, we offer these gifts of time, talent, and finances for the work of your church. Guide its leaders to invest it wisely for the purposes and in the name of our Lord Jesus 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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