

Year A; Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for August 6, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 32:22-31
- Psalm 17:1-7, 15
- Romans 9:1-5
- Matthew 14:13-21

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Matthew 14*)

One: Many times, our Lord would withdraw to a deserted place by himself,

All: but the crowds would follow him on foot from the towns.

One: Despite his desire to find solitude,

All: our Lord would have compassion on the crowds.

One: He would cure their sick

All: and preach good news to the crowds.

One: When the disciples would worry they had no food to feed the crowds, our Lord Jesus would feed thousands from meager supplies,

All: and they would be filled. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Genesis 32*)

Jacob sent his wives, maids, and children along with all that he possessed across the river, and he remained alone. He spent the night wrestling with a man who could not prevail. The man renamed him Israel for he had striven with God and with humans and had prevailed — a testament to Jacob's transformation. Let us confess when we have wrestled with God and humans; though, ignorant of God's intentions for us have not been transformed.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*30 seconds*)

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Genesis 32; Matthew 14*)

God of miracles, too often our minds are limited to only what we can see or explain, but you tell us that hope is in things unseen; true faith is in things that extend our experiences and explanation. Forgive our lack of faith and our resistance to hoping for and accepting things we cannot explain. Transform us into the people you intend — following your will, your word, and your ways while leaving our own will, our own selfish ideas, and our own selfish ways behind. Grow our faith and reward our hope. In the name of the one who fed and satisfied 5000 men plus women and children with five loaves and two fish. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Matthew 14*)

Jesus went to be alone in a deserted place to pray, but the crowds found him when they followed him on foot. He had compassion on the crowds and healed their sick and fed them with his word and his miraculous multiplication of food in abundance. For those who repent and follow him, he has compassion even to forgive sins, reconcile people to God, and offer eternal and abundant life. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Matthew 14*)

God, our peace, your understanding and patience can be overwhelming. When our Lord went to have solitude and the crowds followed, he healed them and taught them. When it came time to dismiss them for the evening meal, he fed them instead. When we today are impatient, you are patient. When we sin and repent, you offer forgiveness. When we are anxious, you provide peace. Even today, you still heal, and you provide a harvest each year to feed us. In thankfulness for your many blessings, we offer these gifts for the work of your church. Guide our 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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