

**Year A; Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for October 15, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Exodus 32:1-14
- Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
- Philippians 4:1-9
- Matthew 22:1-14

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 106*)

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise?

**All: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.**

One: Remember us, O Lord, when you show favor to your people; help us when you deliver them;

**All: that we may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that we may rejoice in the gladness of your people, that we may glory in your heritage.**

One: Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

**All: As Moses stood in the breach before God for his people, you have sent your son to stand in the breach for us that your wrath might be turned away and we might not be destroyed. Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*alternate, from Psalm 106*)

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.**

One: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise?

**All: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Exodus 32*)

When Moses was on the mountain for longer than the Israelites could tolerate, they became anxious and commanded for Aaron to make gods for them. While we may not fashion a golden calf, we can become anxious and exclude God as a source of our solution. Let us come before a merciful God who desires we take our concerns to him.

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Exodus 32*)

**Almighty and merciful God, you led the Israelites out of Egypt with a pillar of cloud by day and with fire by night. You, also, guide us in our lives through the scriptures, through hidden ways, through people you place in our path, and through the many resources you grant us. Forgive that we let our anxieties overwhelm us, and help us to take our concerns to you. Reduce these anxieties within us, and allow us to focus on the one who carefully created us, lovingly redeemed us, and constantly sustains us. In the name of our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Philippians 4*)

Paul commands the Philippians, “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Cast your anxieties on him, be transformed, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Exodus 32; Philippians 4*)

**Gracious God, you created the earth, the heavens, and all that is in them. You created the vegetation, the animals of the land, the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all else. All of this offers us an incredible and diverse abundance. But, even when we find ourselves anxious in your creation, you offer that we may come to you, and you will offer us your peace, which surpasses all understanding. In thankfulness for these many blessings and your constant sustenance, we offer these gifts for your work in your kingdom. May your kingdom come and quickly. In the name of the one who died that we may live. 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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