

Year A; All Saints Day
Liturgical Elements
Developed for November 1, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Revelation 7:9-17
- Psalm 34:1-10, 22
- 1 John 3:1-3
- Matthew 5:1-12

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 34*)

One: We will bless the Lord at all times;

All: his praise shall continually be in our mouths.

One: My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

All: let the humble hear and be glad.

One: O magnify the Lord with me,

All: and let us exalt his name together.

One: The Lord redeems the life of his servants;

All: none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. Let us worship God.

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

God calls us to transformation — to become ready for the Kingdom of Heaven where hunger and thirst will be no more, where the sun will not strike us nor any scorching heat, and where God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Let us confess our sin that we may be made ready for God's Kingdom.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

Almighty and merciful God, John writes in Revelation that he looked, and there before him was “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages,” standing before God’s throne and before the Lamb worshipping him. While we long for the Kingdom of Heaven, we fall very short of making it true in our world today. Our nation, the church in its history, and each of us have excluded people inappropriately. We have a tendency to associate with people who think like us, look like us, and behave like us. We have excluded people with different abilities, different skin colors, different national origins, and a multitude of other factors. Forgive our shortsightedness, and renew our hearts that we might look for all to include in your kingdom as it comes into existence here on earth. We pray this in the name of the one who came down from heaven in human form — a nature very different from his own — to lead, teach, and bring salvation to each of us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from 1 John 3*)

John writes in his epistle, “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are... Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not been yet revealed.” Receive God’s love and into God’s family. Repent and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from 1 John 3*)

Gracious God, you love us so that despite our sinfulness, you are willing to call us children of God. Despite the state of your fallen creation — a creation you intended for beauty and harmony — you are working to redeem and restore it such that the effects of sin we experience today will be no more. In thankfulness for all that you offer us, we offer these tithes for the building of that kingdom through you church in the name of the head of your church, 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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