

**Year A; Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for September 20, 2020**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Exodus 16:2-15
- Psalm 105:1-6, 27-45
- Philippians 1:21-30
- Matthew 20:1-16

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (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; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.  
**All: Seek the Lord and all his strength; seek his presence continually.**  
One: Remember the wonderful works he has done;  
**All: his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered. Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Exodus 16)

Much as God was leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, he invites us into the Kingdom of Heaven. But as the Israelites grumbled against God, we also may grumble. We may grasp for the ways of the world rather than the ways of God. We may want to define what is fair within ourselves or desire to have things that bring gratification to the flesh. Let us ask for God's forgiveness where we have strayed from his ways.

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (from Exodus 16)

**Patient and merciful God, you led the Israelites for forty years through the desert to mold them and to create a people. They grumbled and complained and held onto the ways they knew from Egypt, where they were enslaved. They even made a golden calf and worshipped it. You are inviting us on a journey into the Kingdom of Heaven you have already begun creating, but we grumble and complain. We hold onto the ways of the world that we knew before you called us. We were enslaved there to sin and death. We remember old ways and try to gratify our flesh rather than feeding your Spirit within us. Forgive our deviations from the path you have set before us — forgive our sin. Continue to lead us into the Kingdom of Heaven in the name of the one who already rules from there, Lord Jesus the Messiah. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Exodus 16*)

As God led the Israelites through the desert, he had many reasons to be frustrated and abandon them and this is evident through scripture. But God endured with them and provided for them, and this new nation would eventually reach the Promised Land. God continues to endure with us today. Call on Jesus, know that you are forgiven, and continue the journey to the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Matthew 20*)

**Almighty and loving God, to those you have chosen, you endlessly pursue them. Not letting sin forever separate you from them, you came in human form that they might be forgiven and enjoy eternal life with you. You reward those who come early as well as those who come to you late in life. In thankfulness for your mercy and your justice, we offer these gifts from what you have given us for the work of your Kingdom on earth. May your Kingdom come in its fulness and with haste. 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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