

**Year A; Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for November 19, 2023**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Judges 4:1-7
- Psalm 123
- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- Matthew 25:14-30

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 123*)

One: To you, O Lord, we lift up our eyes,

**All: O you who are enthroned in the heavens!**

One: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

**All: so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.**

One: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt.

**All: Our souls have had more than their fill of scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud. Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (*alternate, from Psalm 123*)

One: To you, O Lord, we lift up our eyes,

**All: O you who are enthroned in the heavens!**

One: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

**All: so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.  
Let us worship God!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from 1 Thessalonians 5*)

In recent centuries, we as a people have developed technologies that allow us to subdue the world — God's creation and even, sometimes, other peoples. We have misled ourselves that we can control the world around us. God remains sovereign and beyond our control. Let us confess our sins and our deceptions.

**\*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**\*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from 1 Thessalonians 5*)

**Almighty God, our nation possesses immense power in economics, in attention from the rest of the world, and in military might. This can lull us into a deception that we can control our destiny. But you remain sovereign, O Lord. One day, you will come like a “thief in the night.” We may say, “There is security and peace,” but suddenly, there will be destruction. Help us to understand the limits of our power and, where we do possess power, to use it with love toward the rest of your creation. Grow your wisdom in us, and forgive our sins, we pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from 1 Thessalonians 5*)

Those who commit themselves to Christ do not live in darkness. We are children of light and children of the day. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love and a helmet of hope and salvation. God has not destined us for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*from Matthew 25*)

**Gracious God, everything that we possess has been give to us by you. You have entrusted us with your creation, your resources, and your talents to grow for the Kingdom of God. Guide us to invest your talents and resources wisely that your Kingdom might be realized soon. Thank you for trusting us with these resources as we give back a portion for the work of your church, the bride 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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