

Year A; Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for August 23, 2020
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Exodus 1:8-2:10
- Psalm 124:1-8
- Romans 12:1-8
- Matthew 16:13-20

***CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 124)**

One: When the enemies of Israel attacked them, Israel feared they would be swallowed alive.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: When Israel's enemies were upon them, they feared the flood and torrent would sweep them away.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: When Israel was under siege, the Lord did not let them fall as prey, but they escaped like a bird.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: Let us remember that as trouble is upon us, God still reigns and still cares for his church and his people.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Let us worship God.

***CALL TO CONFESSION (from Romans 12)**

The Apostle Paul commands us not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We, though, too often allow ourselves to be transformed by the constant assaults of this world upon our minds and upon our bodies. Let us confess our sins to God.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from Romans 12)**

Merciful God, you command us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, and you tell us that this is our spiritual worship. You command us to be transformed by the Holy Spirit through the renewing of our minds, but we too often are transformed by the world rather than by you. Forgive our sins, and use your Holy Spirit to sanctify and transform us in the name of our Lord Jesus, the Messiah. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (from Romans 12)

The Apostle Paul also states that if we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and renew our minds, we may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect. Be transformed by the Holy Spirit, and know that we are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Matthew 16*)

Almighty God, roughly 2000 years ago, you promised that you would build your church and that even the gates of Hades could not prevail against it. Many forces have worked to defeat your church, but it has prevailed despite its very meager beginnings. Today, its presence is known at some level in almost every nation and blesses people with your work and your message. Enable your church here to continue this work, and use these gifts given in the name of Jesus, to establish 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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