

Year A; Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for October 8, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
- Psalm 19
- Philippians 3:4b-14
- Matthew 21:33-46

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 19*)

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

All: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

One: the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear enlightening the eyes;

All: the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous together.

One: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

All: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

One: But who can detect their errors? Clear us from hidden faults.

All: Keep back your servants also from those who are rude and who lack showing respect; do not let them have dominion over us.

One: Then we shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

All: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you; O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. Let us worship God!

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*alternate, from Psalm 19*)

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

All: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you; O lord, our rock and our redeemer. Let us worship God!

***FIRST READING**

Exodus 20:1-20

The Ten Commandments

One: Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;

All: you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

One: You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

All: You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God,

One: for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

All: Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

One: Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

All: Honor your father and your mother,

One: so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

All: You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

One: When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Exodus 20*)

God set forth his law ages ago, but we continue to fail to meet that standard. We are commanded to fear the Lord, but Moses tells us, also, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin." Let us come before the God of Mercy to confess our sins.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Exodus 20*)

Almighty God, you commanded the Israelites to keep your law as you brought them out of slavery — out of Egypt. You have, also, offered us freedom from slavery to sin and death. We fail, though, to keep your commandments. We fail to honor you by placing other things before you. We use our Sabbath for our own selfish intentions. We fail to honor our neighbor as you command. Forgive our sins, and renew our hearts that we might be transformed to be the people you have called us to be to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from Exodus 20*)

Moses taught the Israelites that God shows his steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love God and keep his commandments. Let us repent and enjoy God's steadfast love and know that we are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Philippians 3*)

Gracious God, when true and full righteousness was not found in us, you gave us true and full righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. Even faith is a free gift from you. In thanksgiving for the blessings you provide for us, we offer these gifts as a portion of what you have already given us. Guide your church to use them wisely for your work on earth. In the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

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