

Year A; Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for October 29, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Deuteronomy 34:1-12
- Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
- 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
- Matthew 22:34-46

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 90*)

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

All: Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

One: You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

All: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

One: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

All: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

One: Turn, O LORD! How long will you turn from us, O LORD? Have compassion on your servants!

All: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

One: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

All: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

One: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands —

All: O prosper the work of our hands! Let us worship the LORD!

SUMMARY OF THE LAW (*from Matthew 22*)

Our Lord Jesus said: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Matthew 22*)

Jesus commands us to love God and to love people, but we too often love ourselves and look out for ourselves before God and others. Let us confess when we have failed to treat our neighbor as ourselves and when we have placed other things before God.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(30 seconds)*

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from Matthew 22)*

Merciful God, you summarize the law in commanding us to love our God with all our hearts, souls, minds, and bodies and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We, though, place ourselves and our own desires before you. We pursue comfort, entertainment, wealth, power, and other things as idols. We rely on our own ability to accomplish or solve things instead of turning to you first and seeking your guidance and your will. We treat ourselves to luxuries and benefits that our neighbors do not enjoy. Re-order our priorities, and turn us always first to you and next to our neighbor that we may be faithful. We pray this in the name of the one who did your work with great challenge and who cared for each of us so much, he was willing to go to the cross for us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Matthew 22)*

It is surely true that Jesus modeled what he expects of us. God came to us in Jesus Christ to model what he expects of us. He traversed the great divide between God and humans, was born of lowly estate, and lived much as we do. He, though, willingly went to the cross that we might be forgiven and have abundant and eternal life. Follow him, and know that you are forgiven. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from 1 Thessalonians 2)*

Gracious God, we read through scripture of the abuse the apostles suffered to declare your gospel message. They were entrusted with the message of the gospel and shared out of love — a love modeled by you in Jesus Christ. They were gentle, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. They cared deeply for their flock and shared their very selves. We thank you for your work in them and others who likewise serve today and pray that you would mold us more and more into the model of Jesus and the apostles. With our gratitude, please accept these gifts for that continued work. Amen.

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