

Year B; First Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for December 3, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Isaiah 64:1-9
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- Mark 13:24-37

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Isaiah 64*)

One: O that God would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at his presence —

All: as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil

One: to make his name known to his adversaries,

All: so that the nations might tremble at his presence.

One: When he did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

All: he came down, the mountains quaked at his presence.

One: From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,

All: no eye has seen any God beside him, who works for those who wait for him.

One: He is our Father; we are the clay, and he is our potter;

All: we are all the work of his hand. Let us worship God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Isaiah 64*)

The prophet Isaiah writes that God meets those who do right, those who remember God's ways. But God can also be angry, and we sin. God hides himself when we transgress. We, though, are his clay, and he is the potter. We are the work of his hand. Let us confess our sins and subject ourselves to his transforming work.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Isaiah 64*)

Gracious and merciful God, you are the potter and are working to transform us and ready us for the Kingdom of Heaven. We resist your work at times, though. You work to pull off a part of who we are, and we grasp onto it — grasping to the sin you are working to remove. Continue to be patient with us, continue to eliminate in us what does not fit the coming kingdom, and place in us that which belongs in that same kingdom. Forgive our sins, and do not give up on us, O Lord. In the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (*from 1 Corinthians 1*)

Paul writes that Jesus will strengthen us to the end so that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Continue to allow God to mold you, Jesus to strengthen you, and the Holy Spirit to transform you, 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 Isaiah 64*)

Almighty God, your scriptures testify that “from ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.” We continue to wait for our Lord to return and for the miraculous promises contained in scripture. In thankfulness and with hope for that day, we offer these tithes in thanks for your many blessings. 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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