

Year A; Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for November 12, 2023
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
- Psalm 78:1-7
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Matthew 25:1-13

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 78*)

One: The Lord teaches in parables and dark sayings of old — things that our ancestors have told us.

All: We will not hide them from the children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

One: He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel,

All: which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

One: that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

All: so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments. Let us worship God.

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Joshua 24*)

Joshua told the Israelites that long ago, their ancestors — Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor — served other gods. God took Abraham, led him to the land of Canaan, made himself known, and made Abraham's offspring many. Likewise, our ancestors once worshipped other gods, God made himself known, and God made their offspring many. Let us renew our commitment to God and confess our sins.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Joshua 24*)

Gracious God, we, as our ancestors, are prone to worship and serve gods other than you, the Almighty One. You created all that is around us, but we find ourselves worshipping the creation, the work of people of this world, dreams from our own minds, and the work of our hands. We place a multitude of things before you, O God. Forgive us for serving and worshipping anything other than you, and transform us to serve you alone. In the name of the one who served you without fail, Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from 1 Thessalonians 4*)

God promises to bring with Jesus those who have died through Jesus — believing he died and rose again. But we who are in Jesus will also be caught up with him — remaining with the Lord forever. Believe in the resurrection, allow God to reform 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 Joshua 24*)

Merciful God, despite that the Israelites failed on many occasions to worship you and follow your ways, you were faithful to them. You continue to be faithful to us despite our failures, and we long for your transformation of us into what you intend. In thankfulness for your many promises to your creation including to us, we offer these gifts to aid the work of your church on earth. In the name 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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