

**Year B; Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for January 21, 2024**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- Psalm 62:5-12
- 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
- Mark 1:14-20

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 62*)

One: For God alone my soul waits in silence,

**All: for my hope is from him.**

One: He alone is my rock and my salvation,

**All: my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

One: On God rests my deliverance and my honor;

**All: my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.**

One: Trust in him at all times O people;

**All: pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Let us worship God!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Jonah 3*)

Sometimes, we act as Jonah. We flee God's call to us when it doesn't match our desires, or we are angry that it brings reconciliation between God and people who are not like us. Other times, we act as the Ninevites, and we continue in community sin. Let us confess all areas where we sin, and seek God's mercy.

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*from Jonah 3*)

**Merciful God, we often flee your call to us when it's uncomfortable and when it doesn't fit our wills. Transform us, and ask again that we may be obedient to your will. Other times, we benefit from community and institutional sin and fail to correct for long-standing injustices. We continue to allow Native Americans, Southern and Eastern Europeans, African Americans, Hispanics, Africans, and others to suffer from the continued oppression of our ancestors and systems that still are not dismantled in our day. Forgive our sin. Lead us on a path to your Kingdom of Heaven where there will be no Jew nor Gentile, no elite nor oppressed but where all will gather before our Lord Jesus Christ in unity. In his name we pray. Amen.**

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(alternate, from Jonah 3)*

**Merciful God, we often flee your call to us when it's uncomfortable and when it doesn't fit our wills. Transform us, and ask again that we may be obedient to your will. Other times, we benefit from community and institutional sin and fail to correct for long-standing injustices. We look at others and favor those who look like us, think like us, act like us, live like us, and possess wealth similar to us. Forgive our sin. Lead us on a path to your Kingdom of Heaven where there will be no Jew nor Gentile, no elite nor oppressed but where all will gather before our Lord Jesus Christ in unity. In his name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Jonah 3)*

When Jonah finally took God's word to the Ninevites, they repented. Proclaiming a fast, they put on sackcloth and ashes even to the king and to all the animals. Let us, also, reflect upon our sin, repent, and trust in God's forgiveness. As God offered mercy to the Ninevites, so he will offer it to us. Amen.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from Mark 1)*

**Almighty God, you are the Alpha and the Omega — the beginning and the end. You are transcendent and immanent — beyond this world but also choosing to operate within it. Despite your magnificence, though, you choose to call ordinary people to cooperate in your work to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth. In thankfulness for your call to each of us and for other blessings, we give a portion of what we have for your work on earth. 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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