

Year B; Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 28, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Psalm 111
- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- Mark 1:21-28

CALL TO WORSHIP *(based on Psalm 111)*

One: Praise the Lord!

All: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

One: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

All: The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

One: He sent redemption to his people;

All: he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

One: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

All: His praise endures forever. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION *(from Deuteronomy 18)*

When the Lord, our God, appeared before Moses at Mount Horeb, the Israelites feared God. They pleaded with God that they not hear the voice of God directly nor experience the great fire and other effects for they feared death. Let us come before the Almighty humbly confessing our sins.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from 1 Corinthians 8)*

Almighty God, your power is unlimited and unchecked. Your knowledge is infinite, and your wisdom only known to you. We, your creation, can forget your power, your knowledge, and your wisdom and assume that there is none greater than any one of us. Forgive our lack of humility. Help us to understand our limitations. Grow us in your wisdom, and show us your mercy. In the name of the one who displayed your power and wisdom on earth, Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Deuteronomy 18)*

When the Israelites feared God and wanted not to hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore or even to see his power displayed in great fire and other effects, he accommodated them by raising up prophets from among them. Come humbly before God, and know that he will show you similar mercy as he has through our Lord Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Mark 1)*

Gracious God, long ago you spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days you have spoken to us by your Son. Your Son came and astounded others by his teachings as he taught with authority and not as the scribes of that day. He healed and cast out demons. He performed many miracles to draw humanity close to you. In our day, we are blessed with your scriptures that testify to him and his work. In thankfulness, we offer a portion of what you have given us for the work of your church. 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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