

Year B; Second Sunday of Lent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for February 25, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
- Psalm 22:23-31
- Romans 4:13-25
- Mark 8:31-38

OPENING PRAYER (*from Psalm 22*)

Glorious God, we come before you to give you praise because you are worthy of praise. We come to you to glorify you because you deserve to be glorified. We come before you in awe of you for you are greater than all that is. Though you are magnificent beyond all things, you do not despise those who are afflicted. You do not hide your face from us; you hear us when we cry out to you. Because of you, the poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek you shall praise you. One day, all the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to you; all the families of the nations shall worship before you. To you, belongs all dominion; you rule over all the nations. Even as we meet our end in this life, we shall worship you. Your rule is not limited by space or nationality or even time. As we come to you in worship this day, look well upon our worship and hear us when we cry out. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 22*)

- One: You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- All: For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from us, but heard when we cried to him.**
- One: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- All: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!**
- One: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
- All: For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**
- One: To him, indeed shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow down all who go down to the dust, and we shall live for him.
- All: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it. Let us praise and worship God!**

CALL TO CONFESSION *(from Mark 8)*

Jesus told the crowd with his disciples that if they wanted to become his followers, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow him. We, though, like to keep our distance from Jesus and to limit our commitment, but he commands our all. Let us confess where we hold Jesus at a distance in our lives.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from Mark 8)*

God, our purifier, you tell us that if we want to save our lives, we must lose them to you for those who lose their lives for your sake and for the sake of the gospel will save their lives. We want to benefit from the promises you provide us but don't want to be indebted to our Lord. We want the benefits but not the responsibilities. Forgive our sinfulness and grow our faith. In the name of the One who purchased our lives so that we may be reconciled to you and enjoy eternal life. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Romans 4)*

As it was with Abraham, righteousness will be reckoned to you who believe in the Father, trust in the Father, and follow the Father, who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Mark 8)*

Faithful God, you are always faithful even when we are not. When Peter rebuked our Lord, he responded sharply but continued leading him and teaching him. After Peter denied our Lord three times, Jesus called him to shepherd his flock three times. You are patient, also, with us, who may at times deny you or follow you only when it seems convenient or comfortable. In thankfulness for your many benefits and for your endurance with us, we offer these gifts for the work of your church. Amen.

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