

**Year B; Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for March 17, 2024**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 51:1-12
  - Or Psalm 119:9-16
- Hebrews 5:5-10
- John 12:20-33

**OPENING PRAYER** (*from Psalm 119*)

Almighty God, you give us your word so that we may keep our way pure. We seek you with our whole hearts; do not let us stray from your commandments. To avoid sinning against you, we treasure your word in our hearts. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach us your statutes and your ways. With our lips, we declare all the ordinances of your mouth. Help us to delight in your decrees as much as in all riches. We meditate on your precepts and fix our eyes on your ways. We will delight in your statutes; we will not forget your ways. As we assemble before you to worship you this day, hear our prayers, our songs, and our echoing and interpretation of your word. Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*from Psalm 119*)

One: How can young people keep their way pure?

**All: By guarding it according to God's word.**

One: With our whole heart we seek you, O LORD; do not let us stray from your commandments.

**All: We treasure your word in our hearts, so that we may not sin against you.**

One: Blessed are you, O LORD; teach us your statutes.

**All: With our lips we declare all the ordinances of your mouth.**

One: We delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.

**All: We will meditate on your precepts, and fix our eyes on your ways.**

One: We will delight in your statutes; we will not forget your word.

**All: Let us worship God!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (*from Psalm 51*)

If we look deep inside ourselves and evaluate our actions against God's law and intentions, we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Let us come humbly before God and confess our sin.

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(from Psalm 51)*

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us of our sin. You desire truth in our inward being, but our sin is ever before us. Against you have we sinned. You are justified in your sentence, and you are blameless when you pass judgement. Do not cast us away from your presence; restore us to the joy of your salvation. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Hebrews 5)*

The author of Hebrews writes, “Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.” He has become the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. Let us come into obedience of Christ and trust in his eternal salvation. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from Hebrews 5)*

**Merciful God, you appointed Jesus as a high priest who lived out your teachings perfectly. He lifted up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. He, though, also, became the eternal salvation for all who obey him. Create in us such an obedience. In thankfulness for our Lord’s obedience, suffering, and gift to us, we offer these tithes in his name. 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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