

Year B; Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for February 4, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Isaiah 40:21-31
- Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
- 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
- Mark 1:29-39

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 147*)

One: Praise the Lord!

All: How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

One: He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

All: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

One: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

All: The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

One: Sing to the Lord with Thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

All: He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

One: He gives to the animals their food,

All: and to the young ravens when they cry.

One: His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

All: but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. Let us praise and worship the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*alternate, from Psalm 147*)

One: Praise the Lord!

All: How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

One: He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

All: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

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All: The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love. Let us praise and worship the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*alternate, from Isaiah 40*)

One: Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

All: It is God who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

One: who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

All: Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth; when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

One: The Holy One asks, "To whom then shall you compare me, or who is my equal? Lift up your eyes on high and see; Who created these?"

All: He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

One: The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

All: He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

One: He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

All: Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,

One: they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Let us worship the Almighty God!

All: they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Let us worship the Almighty God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Isaiah 40*)

Isaiah describes God sitting above the circle of the earth looking down at its inhabitants, who appear as grasshoppers. He brings princes to naught. We, however, can boast of our accomplishments and our power. Let us consider our place against the Creator and confess the errors of our ways.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Isaiah 40*)

Almighty God, to whom can we compare you; who is your equal? Too often, Lord, we look upon ourselves and trust in our power and our accomplishments. We boast of what we can do. Other times, O Lord, we look at our world and its various leaders and place our primary trust in them. Yet other times, we look at institutions here on earth and displace our trust in you with trust in them.

Forgive our sin, O Lord. Help us to always look to you as the Almighty, the Creator, and the Alpha and the Omega. We pray this in the name of the one who humbled himself and became obedient until death, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Isaiah 40)*

While the Almighty is the everlasting and all-powerful God, he, also, gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles. Place your trust in God, repent, and be assured of his forgiveness. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from 1 Corinthians 9:16-23)*

Gracious God, you sent your Son to proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven all throughout Israel. He disciplined a small group of people to continue the proclamation of his message to the ends of the earth, and some, descending from their work, came to disciple us in our day. In thankfulness for your work through humans such as us, we offer these tithes for your continued 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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