

Year B; Third Sunday of Easter
Liturgical Elements
Developed for April 14, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Acts 3:12-19
- Psalm 4
- 1 John 3:1-7
- Luke 24:36b-48

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 4*)

One: Answer us when we call, O God of my right! You give room when people are in distress. Be gracious to us, and hear our prayer.

All: How long, you people, shall the LORD's honor suffer shame? How long will people love vain words and seek after lies?

One: Know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;

All: the Lord hears when we call to him.

One: When you are disturbed, do not sin;

All: ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

One: Offer right sacrifices,

All: and put your trust in the Lord.

One: O Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts

All: more than when the grain and wine abound.

One: We will both lie down and sleep in peace;

All: for you alone, O LORD, make us lie down in safety. Let us worship God!

CALL TO WORSHIP (*alternate, from Psalm 4*)

One: Know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;

All: the Lord hears when we call to him.

One: When you are disturbed, do not sin;

All: ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

One: Offer right sacrifices,

All: and put your trust in the Lord.

One: O Lord, you have put gladness in our hearts

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All: for you alone, O LORD, make us lie down in safety. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION *(from Acts 3)*

If after Jesus is resurrected, Peter can speak to those who called for his crucifixion and acknowledge their ignorance. If he can further call them to repentance and to turn toward God with hopes that their sin will be wiped out, let us, also, acknowledge our ignorance and our sinfulness, repent, and turn toward God.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from Luke 24)*

Lord Jesus, you pronounced that it was prophesied from long ago that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. This you did for our benefit because we were in need — in need of rescue from our own sinfulness. You further noted that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in your name to all the nations. We, though, are reluctant to proclaim your message in areas near and far. Forgive our sin, and grow our faith that we might be so bold in sharing and so steadfast in living in your way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from 1 John 3)*

Jesus was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins, but everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Let us change our ways, live into Jesus' righteousness, and know that we are forgiven through Jesus. Friends, hear and believe this good news.

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from 1 John 3)*

Gracious God, you have given us incredible status that we don't deserve — that we should be called children of God, and this is what we are. You have not, yet, revealed what we will fully be, but we wait in anticipation and in assurance that we will be like Jesus when he is fully revealed. In thankfulness for this tremendous gift, we offer these tithes in the name of Jesus. 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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