

Year B; Fifth Sunday of Easter
Liturgical Elements
Developed for April 28, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Acts 8:26-40
- Psalm 22:25-31
- 1 John 4:7-21
- John 15:1-8

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 22)*

One: From you, O Lord, comes our praise in the great congregation; our vows we will pay before those who fear you.

All: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek God shall praise the Lord.

One: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

All: and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

One: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

All: To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and we shall live for him. Let us worship God.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(from 1 John 4)*

The author of the letter of First John writes, “Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” We sometimes fail to love our neighbor, our brother or sister in Christ, or our enemy. Let us humbly confess before God where we have failed to love and ask his forgiveness.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from 1 John 4)*

Merciful God, your scriptures tell us that you are the very definition of love. You came to earth in Jesus to demonstrate what love is. We, though, fail to love those around us, those who are far, and those who have wronged us. Forgive our failure to love and grow love within us that we might imitate our Lord. In his name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from 1 John 4)*

The same author writes, “God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Repent, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from 1 John 4)*

Almighty God, we can find a multitude of people in power today whether in politics, business, or in other fields that show a love that dominates, a love that is self-focused, and a love that pushes down on the less powerful. But you, O God, though you are more powerful than any of these leaders, you are the very definition of love — looking out for the oppressed, those without, and those left behind. In thankfulness for who you are and what you have done for us, we offer these gifts for your work. 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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