

Year B; Seventh Sunday of Easter
Liturgical Elements
Developed for May 12, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
- Psalm 1
- 1 John 5:9-13
- John 17:6-19

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 1*)

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

All: but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

One: They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in due season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

All: The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

One: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

All: for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish. Let us worship God, the Righteous One.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*alternate, from Psalm 1*)

One: Happy are those whose delight is in the law of the Lord,

All: and on his law they meditate day and night.

One: They are like trees planted by streams of water,

All: which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper.

One: For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous.

All: Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Psalm 1*)

The Psalmist writes that the righteous delight in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. Often, we fail to think of God's law, we fail to learn his law, and we fail to meditate on his law. Let us confess where we have violated God's law or fled from the law so that we might claim ignorance or pursue our own aims.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from Psalm 1)*

Merciful God, the Psalmist announces “Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers.” We can be drawn to the advise of the wicked, we sometimes take the path of sinners, and we can scoff at others who don’t meet standards we have set — standards that are often not your standards. Help us to know and follow your law; help us to meditate on your law in all our hours. Forgive our sin, and grow us in righteousness. In the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from 1 John 5)*

The author of First John writes, “And this is [God’s] testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” Live in God’s Son Jesus, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from John 17:6-19)*

Heavenly Father, your Son, our Lord Jesus the Messiah, while knowingly facing ridicule, abuse, and crucifixion, remained faithful to his followers — including us. As he prepared to leave this earth and be with you, he prayed for your protection upon his people. He prayed that you would guard them and keep them from becoming lost. He prayed you would sanctify his followers even as he faced the end of his earthly ministry. In thankfulness for his and your faithfulness, we offer these tithes. 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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