

Year B; Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for July 21, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts (Semicontinuous)

- 2 Samuel 7:1-14a
- Psalm 89:20-37
- Ephesians 2:11-22
- Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Ephesians 2*)

One: Various nations and empires of the earth have worked to unite all people under one authority,

All: but they have failed — never having brought the unity they intended under earthly laws and ordinances.

One: The Lord God has taken a different approach;

All: he has set aside the law with its commandments and ordinances.

One: The Lord is working to reconcile the entire world to himself.

All: The Lord is working that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of two or more, thus making true and lasting peace. Let us worship God!

CALL TO WORSHIP (*alternate, from Psalm 89*)

One: God found his servant David and anointed him with oil;

All: God promised to always remain with him and to strengthen him.

One: God promised to protect him from his enemies and from the wicked.

All: God promised God's faithfulness and steadfast love.

One: In later years, God lived among us and took on human form;

All: Christ rules as king today in the line of David.

One: Despite their failures and sins, he offers God's followers forgiveness of sins

All: and offers them abundant and eternal life. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Ephesians 2*)

The Apostle Paul notes the deep divisions between Jews and Gentiles. In our day, we find new ways to divide — through theology, through politics, through ethnicities and race, and in many other ways. God, though, is working to break down those divisions that we might be one through Christ. Let us confess where we work against God and trust in his forgiveness.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Ephesians 2*)

God of reconciliation, you created every person in your image, but we fail to see you in many people around us. We work to divide. We exhibit a tribal nature — favoring those who are like us in appearance, in background, in thought, and in behavior. We can abuse those we categorize as “other,” and some of these divisions have existed for centuries. You, though, are working to create a new humanity — in place of the two or many, you are working to create one and in so doing establishing peace. This, though, is only possible through our Lord’s work on the cross. Forgive our sin and make us agents of your reconciliation and your peace. In the name of the one who died that we might be reconciled. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Ephesians 2*)

Jesus came to declare peace and to die that we might be reconciled to God and to one another. Be reconciled, and live in peace with the assurance that we have been forgiven. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Mark 6*)

Lord of Lords and King of Kings, as you walked this earth you often sought solitude and time to pray, but the crowds would press upon you and follow you. You had compassion for them and ministered to them despite that for which you longed. Your patience was overwhelming. Even today, you are patient with us wanting that none of us would be lost and offering your forgiveness where we have sinned. For all your compassion and all your patience and for all your continued work on earth, 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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