

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

Lectionary Texts (Semicontinuous)

- 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
- Psalm 51:1-12
- Ephesians 4:1-16
- John 6:24-35

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Ephesians 4*)

One: Humans of the world have a practice of creating divisions;

All: but those who are truly in Christ are not divided.

One: For those who are in Christ, there is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,

All: one Lord,

One: one faith,

All: one baptism

One: one God and Father of all,

All: who is above all and through all and in all. Let us worship God who brings together the many to unite them as one!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from 2 Samuel 12*)

After Nathan had made known King David's sin with Bathsheba, David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan replied to David's confession with "Now the Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die." Let us confess our sin to God so that we might, also, be forgiven.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Psalm 51*)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you alone, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, we were born guilty, sinners when our mothers conceived us. But you desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach us wisdom in our secret hearts. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Restore us to the joy of your salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit. We pray this in the name of the one who came that we might be forgiven. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from 2 Samuel 12*)

David was assured after his confession by the prophet Nathan that the Lord had put away his sin and that he would not die. Believe, confess, and repent, and be assured that through Jesus Christ we have been promised forgiveness and eternal life. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Ephesians 4*)

Almighty God, you may be the greatest wonder that exists to humankind, but you do not exist entirely apart from humanity. You have given us tremendous grace — according to the measure of Christ's gift. You have lived among us, and you are working to reconcile the entire world. Not only that, you have gifted us to equip the saints for ministry and for building up the body of Christ until all are mature and united in faith. In thankfulness, we offer these tithes 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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