

Year B; Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical Elements
Developed for November 3, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Ruth 1:1-18
- Psalm 146:1-10
- Hebrews 9:11-14
- Mark 12:28-34

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 146*)

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: We will praise the Lord as long as we live; we will sing praises to our God all our life long.

One: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

All: When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

All: who made heaven and earth,

One: the sea, and all that is in them;

All: who keeps faith forever;

One: who executes justice for the oppressed;

All: who gives food to the hungry.

One: The Lord watches over strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,

All: but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

One: The Lord will reign forever,

All: your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord! Let us worship God!

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus said: “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

SUMMARY OF THE LAW (*alternate, from Mark 12*)

One: One of the scribes came near to Jesus and asked, "Which commandment is the first of all?"

All: **Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."**

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Mark 12*)

We, though, too often love ourselves before God and neighbor violating God's commandments. Let us confess where we have failed to love God and neighbor.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION (30 seconds)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Mark 12*)

Merciful God, in our Lord Jesus and in your Old and New Testaments, you have commanded us to love you with our whole being. We, though, prefer to love and obey you when it fits our purposes and our desires. Forgive our self-centeredness, we pray. Likewise, you command us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Again, we prefer to love our neighbor when its convenient and to, even, choose whom we count as neighbor. Forgive again our self-focus. Grow us into obedience to your will, and forgive our failure to perform to your will. In the name of the one who showed absolute love for you and for the people around him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*from Hebrews 9*)

The author of Hebrews writes, "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God! Love God and love neighbor, and trust in God's forgiveness. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*from Hebrews 9*)

Savior God, you sent Jesus Christ as a High Priest greater than other high priests. He entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption rather than temporary redemption. With thankfulness, we offer these tithes to you. 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.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Portions not from the *NRSV* are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

For all other uses or cases, © Copyright 2022, 2024, Andrew Smothers, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.