

Year C; Second Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for December 8, 2024
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Luke 1:68-79
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Luke 3:1-6

***CALL TO CONFESSION** *(from Luke 3)*

When Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, John, the son of Zechariah, received the word of God in the wilderness. He proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins in order to prepare the way for the Lord. Let us, also, declare our repentance, ask for God's forgiveness, and prepare the way for the Lord in our hearts.

***SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (30 seconds)

***CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(from Luke 3)*

God of the heavens and of the earth, the scriptures proclaim that as the way is prepared for the Lord, every valley will be filled and every mountain will be made low, and the crooked will be made straight. This is an image of tremendous transformation — huge amounts of soil and tons of rock being moved from place to place. Too often, though, we look for you to straighten us a little, to move a little sin out of our lives, and to move a bit of righteousness into our lives. Help us to be utterly transformed that sin would no longer be within us and righteousness might overwhelm us. Forgive our sin and grow us into righteousness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from Malachi 3)*

The prophet Malachi writes, "See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple." He is refining us like gold and silver, and we will grow into righteousness. Trust in the promises of God, and know that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from Luke 3)*

Gracious God, thank you that when you found a world that had rebelled against you, that had mountains of sin against you and against neighbor, that had valleys — a lack — of righteousness in all its corners, you did not give up. You came in human form to model how we should live and how we should change the world to remove that sin and grow that righteousness. In response, we offer these gifts and our very lives for your service. 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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