

Year C; Second Sunday in Lent
Liturgical Elements
Developed for March 16, 2025
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- Psalm 27
- Philippians 3:17-4:1
- Luke 13:31-35

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 27*)

One: The LORD is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

All: The LORD is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?

One: When evildoers assail us to devour our flesh — our adversaries and foes — they shall stumble and fall.

All: Though an army encamp against us, our hearts shall not fear; though war rise up against us, yet we will be confident.

One: One thing we ask of the LORD, that will we seek after;

All: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of our lives, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his presence.

One: For he will hide us in his shelter in the day of trouble;

All: he will conceal us under the cover of his tent; he will set us high on a rock. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Psalm 27*)

The Psalmist notes the movement of his heart to seek God's face. He cries out to God, "be gracious to me and answer me!" Let us now seek God's face by humbly confessing our sin with hopes we will be met with his grace and his answer.

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

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Psalm 27, Philippians 3, Luke 13*)

Gracious and loving God, too often we do not seek your face. Too often we do not celebrate all that you have done for us or go to you in prayer when we encounter challenge. Too often our god is our belly, our glory is our shame, and our minds are set on earthly things. Forgive our absence and our sin; turn our gaze from this place to you and your kingdom. In the name of the one who knew what would confront him on Good Friday and stayed true to your mission for him and your commands to him. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Philippians 3)*

Those who are in Christ have citizenship in heaven and are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform us into his glory and in subjecting us to him. Trust in Jesus, and know that we are forgiven. **Amen.**

SUMMARY OF THE LAW *(from Matthew 12, Mark 12)*¹

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.”

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from Genesis 15, Philippians 3, Luke 13)*

Merciful God, you have given us many saints through the history of the church to guide us. You have given people such as Abram whose righteousness was credited to him or as Paul who was so transformed from a persecutor of the church to a missionary to Gentiles such that we should imitate him in his new birth. Even more than these, you have given us our Lord Jesus who modeled how to live in times of challenge. With thanks, we offer these gifts to continue to grow your church and to be, even with our faults, an example to others. Amen.

¹ The Sharing of the Law or Summary of the Law is, also, taken from memory and based on common liturgy from Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (NYC).

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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