

**Year C; Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Liturgical Elements**  
**Developed for September 14, 2025**  
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

**Lectionary Texts**

- Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
- Psalm 14:1-7
- 1 Timothy 1:12-17
- Luke 15:1-10

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 14)*

One: Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”

**All: They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.**

One: The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise —

**All: to see if there are any who seek God.**

One: They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse;

**All: there is no one who does good, no not one.**

One: But who is our God?

**All: He is the God who is with the company of the righteous.**

One: While foolish humans might confound the plans of the poor,

**All: the LORD is the refuge of the poor.**

One: The LORD will restore the fortunes of his people,

**All: and his people will rejoice. Let us worship God!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *(from Jeremiah 4)*

According to Jeremiah, God looked down on his people and found them to be foolish. They had no understanding. They were skilled in doing evil and did not know how to do good. We likewise can be foolish. Our deeds can be evil, and we can fail to know good. Let us humbly confess where we have worked against God.

**CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(from 1 Timothy 1)*

**Merciful God, we, like Paul, have acted ignorantly in unbelief and plead for your mercy. We humbly request that your grace would overflow for us with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. We have spoken incorrectly about you or failed to speak when you have led us. We have ridiculed those who don't think as us. At times, we have resorted to violent words or actions. Forgive our foolish ways, and forgive our unbelief. Help us to find your wisdom, and grant us the faith and love of our Lord. We raise this prayer to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God. To him be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *(from 1 Timothy 1)*

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. For this reason, we receive mercy, so that in each of us, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making us an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. Let us receive God's mercy, accept his forgiveness, and live into his ways. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(from Luke 15)*

**Gracious God, as the shepherd pursuing one lost sheep of one hundred or as the woman sweeping carefully for the one coin out of ten, you pursue all that you intend. When you came in human form, you pursued tax collectors and sinners and still do so today. Through your work in seeking, sinners repent and are forgiven, the lost are found, your disciples commit to your work, and the undeserving such as us await eternal life. There are celebrations in heaven. In thankfulness, we offer from what you have given us these offerings for the work of your church. Guide our leaders to invest them wisely. 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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