

Year A; Second Sunday of Christmas
Liturgical Elements
Developed for January 4, 2026
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Jeremiah 31:7-14
- Psalm 147:12-20
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- John 1:(1-9), 10-18

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Isaiah 65)*

One: Praise the LORD your God!

All: For he strengthens the bars of our gates; he blesses our children within us.

One: He grants peace within our borders; he fills us with the finest wheat.

All: He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

One: He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

All: He hurls down hail like crumbs — who can stand before his cold?

One: He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

All: He declares his word, his statutes and ordinances. Let us praise and worship the LORD!

CALL TO CONFESSION *(from John 1)*

Jesus was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. His own people did not accept him. Let us confess when we fail to know and accept Jesus.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from John 1)*

Merciful God, you came centuries ago to a people much like us — to your own people in the form of Jesus Christ, a man himself. Despite that you came as one of them, they did not know him, and they did not accept him. In our day, we fail to recognize you and your ways. We fail to see you in the person we have opportunity to serve. We fail to see your hand in guiding our world and offering us rescue when necessary. Too often, we fail to accept your ways and your call to live into your kingdom here and now. Forgive our rebellious nature and grow us into your intention. We pray this in the name of the one who came that we might know, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon *(from Ephesians 1)*

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He blesses us with every spiritual blessing and destined us for adoption as God's children through Jesus Christ. It is in Jesus that we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavishes upon us. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from John 1)*

God of grace, despite that humanity had created a great division between you and us, you moved into our neighborhood and dwelt among us through your son, Jesus the Messiah. From his fullness, we have received grace upon grace. In response, we offer these gifts as a portion of that which you have blessed us. May it extend that grace upon grace to those around us. 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 2026, Andrew Smothers, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.