

Year A; Service of Thanksgiving
Liturgical Elements
Developed for November 26, 2026
(and August 23, 2026)
Prepared by Pastor Andy Smothers

Lectionary Texts

- Deuteronomy 8:7-18
- Psalm 65
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Luke 17:11-19

CALL TO WORSHIP (*from Psalm 65*)

One: Come and worship the one who answers prayer —

All: the one who forgave our transgressions when we were overwhelmed by sins,

One: the one who answers us with awesome and righteous deeds,

All: the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,

One: the one who formed mountains, stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves — even the turmoil of all the nations.

All: The whole earth is filled with awe at God's wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

One: He cares for all creation including his people within it.

All: Praise awaits you, our God; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

One: Blessed are those God chooses and brings near to live in his courts!

All: We are filled with the good things in his house. Let us worship God!

CALL TO CONFESSION (*from Deuteronomy 8*)

As the Israelites were readying to enter the Promised Land, God warned them. They were going to enter a land of tremendous abundance after wandering in the desert for decades. He commanded them to give him thanks when they had eaten and been satisfied and to remember from whom that abundance was given.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*from Deuteronomy 8*)

Gracious God, you have offered us a tremendous abundance. We have access to grocery stores that carry a diversity of food of which the Israelites couldn't have even dreamed. We have machines to do work for us, to think for us, to move us about, to provide us entertainment, and more. As you warned them, we risk thinking, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But all that we have and do is enabled and resourced through your creation and your work. Forgive our pride, and forgive our lack of thankfulness. Move our hearts and our minds to recognize where all our accomplishments and wealth are rooted and receive our thanks. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Deuteronomy 8)*

As we turn from our former ways of pride and a lack of thankfulness and offer our thanks to God, we recognize God and his work in the world. We recognize our place against God in the order of things. This is an expression and act of faith. We are saved by God's grace through faith. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

All: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

CALL TO THE OFFERING *(from 2 Corinthians 9)*

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. let us now collect our offering.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(from 2 Corinthians 9)*

Faithful God, you promise to multiply our offerings that they would supply the needs of the Lord's people but would even overflow in many expressions of thanks to you. Please receive our thanks for the ability to give these offerings. May these gifts be a confession of the gospel you offer us and a benefit to your work in the church and your work to redeem the world. Guide our church leaders to invest them wisely and for your purposes. Amen.

Elements in this document are based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV) and *New International Version* (NIV). 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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