

**A Liturgy for Bible Sunday**  
**November 17, 2013**  
**Elinor Swindle Brown**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Happy are those whose way is blameless,

**People: Who walk in the law of the Lord.**

Leader: Happy are those who keep God's decrees,

**People: Who seek God with their whole heart, who also do no wrong.**

Leader: You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

**People: O that our ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!**

Leader: Then we shall not be put to shame,  
having our eyes fixed on all your commandments.

**People: We will praise you with an upright heart,  
when we learn your righteous ordinances.**

Leader: With our whole heart we will seek you;

**People: Do not let us stray from your word.**

*based on Psalm 119:1-10*

**Call to Confession**

When we think of God's ways, we turn our feet to the way of God. We hurry and do not delay to keep God's commandments. But we do not *always* hurry. We *do* go astray. Let us stand before the Lord, knowing what God's word says, and yet knowing that we fall short of following it. Let us confess our sins.

**Prayer of Confession**

O God, your hands have made and fashioned us, but we don't remember that. We arrogantly think we are the first and last of everything—the master of all we see. We do not turn our hearts to you, but rather seek selfish gain. We see the vanities of the world and would rather throw ourselves at their feet and worship rather than seek your way as found in your scriptures. But we know that you have made a promise to those who fear you. Turn away the disgrace that we dread. Remember your word to us, which is our only hope, that if we repent and turn back to you, that you will be gracious and wash us clean of our sins. Make our hearts blameless so that we will not be put to shame, but will be able to glorify your name in all we do. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

As the psalmist says "Great is your mercy, O Lord; give me life according to your justice." We ask God to be merciful to us and we know the promise is sure. We know and believe the good news—in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

### **Prayer for Illumination**

O God, the psalmist declared that the unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. Unfold your word now that it will shine light in the darkness of our lives and impart understanding to us. We long for your word, O God. Grant us illumination. Amen.

### **Scripture Possibilities for the Sermon**

- Psalm 119 (especially verses 97-104)
- 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

### **Prayers of the People**

God of all wisdom and knowledge,  
We come to you thanking you for all things,  
but especially for your gift of the word through the Bible.  
Because we have the Bible, we are able to come to the scriptures ourselves,  
being open to your message and to hearing and interpreting it over and over again.  
We thank you that we have your word so we can more effectively share the good news with others—sharing what your word teaches them:

how to be saved,  
to be nurtured,  
to be comforted,  
to be taught,  
and to follow the example of living through Jesus Christ.

As your word tells us, we pray for others—  
for the weak and hurt,  
for those who are imprisoned either physically or emotionally,  
for those who are alone  
for those who are hungry and thirsty  
for those who are grieving

We ask that we may be like those written about in the Bible,  
who felt your call and put your love into action  
as they helped, loved, related and showed kindness to others.  
We ask that you give us the strength and courage to act on your behalf,  
that we would be your hands and feet in the world.  
We ask that you would give us the knowledge and wisdom  
to teach others how to walk your path.  
We ask that you would give us an attitude to treat others  
as Jesus did and take up the causes for justice when others cannot.  
In all things, let us remember what we have learned from scriptures  
and be the living embodiment of all they represent. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Invitation to the Offering**

“My lips will pour forth praise, because you teach me your statutes. My tongue will sing of your promise, for all your commandments are right. . . .Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.” Just as the Bible calls us to speak words of praise and thanksgiving, it also calls us to act. Let us give of ourselves through our tithes and offerings to recognize the gifts that God has given to us.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Bible is filled with stories of people giving their lives, giving their money, giving all that they have to you, O God. What we bring now is a portion of the whole of what you have given to us. Use it so others may hear of your mighty acts in the world today. Amen.

### **Benediction**

And now as David asked of God, we also ask of God:

May God turn to us and be gracious to us,

as is God’s custom toward those who love God’s name.

May God keep our steps steady according to the promise,

and never let iniquity have dominion over us.

May God’s face shine upon us as servants

and teach us God’s word. Amen.