



# God Highly Values Human Life

## *Sanctity of Life Sunday*

### **OPENING HYMN**

*Praise To The Lord, The Almighty | 234 (1-2)*

### **INVOCATION**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son  $\text{✠}$ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### **RESPONSIVE LITANY**

*Psalm 139, selected verses*

M: O Lord, you have searched me and you know me.

**C: You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**  
M: You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.  
**C: Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.**  
M: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?  
**C: If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**  
M: If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea  
**C: Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**  
M: If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me."  
**C: Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.**  
M: For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
**C: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**  
M: My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,  
**C: Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**  
M: How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!  
**C: Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.**  
M: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
**C: See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

**HYMN RESPONSE**

*Praise To The Lord, The Almighty | 234 (3)*

*Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,  
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.  
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?  
Wings of his mercy did shade you.*

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Dear friends, we have come into the presence of God, by whose very hand we are each fearfully and wonderfully made. We have come to listen to God, who spoke the heavens and the earth into existence. We have come to humbly acknowledge his rightful claim on our bodies, lives, and souls, as our Creator, Savior, and Sanctifier. Therefore, let us confess to him our sinful nature and sinful deeds.

C: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean. Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; Let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins. And blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God. And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence. Or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation. And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

*(Psalm 51, selected verses)*

P: The Lord has forgiven your sins. "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed... but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect... Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God... You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God"

*(1 Peter 1, selected verses).*

## HYMN RESPONSE

*Praise To The Lord, The Almighty | 234 (4-5)*

*Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do  
As with his love he befriends you.*

*Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen Sound from his people again;  
Gladly forever adore him!*

## FIRST LESSON

*Genesis 1:26-31*

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.

<sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

<sup>31</sup> God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning – the sixth day.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

*My Soul, Now Bless Your Maker* | 257

## EPISTLE LESSON

*Romans 5:1-11*

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup>And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

<sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup>Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup>For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup>Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Alleluia. Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart. Alleluia. (Jeremiah 1:5)*

## GOSPEL

*Luke 15:8-32*

<sup>8</sup>“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ <sup>10</sup>In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when

this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!

<sup>31</sup>“ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lord Of All Nations, Grant Me Grace* | 521

## SERMON

*Based on* \_\_\_\_\_

“TITLE HERE”

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*The First Article of the Apostles' Creed & Martin Luther's Explanation*

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

M: What does this mean?

**C: I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.**

**And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil.**

**All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it.**

**For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## OFFERTORY

*I'm With You*

*Love is a hurricane in a blue sky  
I didn't see it coming, never knew why  
All the laughter and the dreams  
All the memories in between  
Washed away in a steady stream*

*Love is a hunger, a famine in your soul  
I thought I planted beauty but it would never grow  
Now I'm on my hands and knees  
Trying to gather up my dreams  
Trying to hold on to anything*

Refrain:

*It's you and me, me and you  
Where you go, I'll go too; I'm with you...  
'Til your heart finds a home,  
I won't let you be alone; I'm with you...*

*We could shake our fists  
In times like this  
When we don't understand  
Or we could just hold hands*

Refrain

*You do your best to build a higher wall  
To keep love safe from every wrecking ball  
When the dust is cleared we will  
See the house that love rebuilt  
Guarding beauty that lives here still*

Refrain

*Who can say I'm left with nothing?  
When I have all of you, all of you  
In the way you've always loved me  
I remember He does too*

Refrain

CCLI License #11059441

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty and eternal God, when mankind threw the gift of eternal life with you away in the Garden of Eden, you restored it to them with the gift of your Son.

**C: Give us the strength to share the promise of forgiveness with those who are hurting, with those who have no hope, with those who do not yet know you.**

M: Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator and the preserver of life. It is you who knits the child together in their mother's womb. As we consider how wonderfully you made us, help us to grow in our appreciation for your wisdom and power. We ask you to open the eyes of those who embrace the practice of abortion. Lead them to cherish the life you create in the womb.

**C: Help anyone who has had, encouraged, or performed an abortion to realize that they have complete forgiveness and pardon through faith in Jesus Christ.**

M: Almighty and eternal God, you know everything about us. You know that at times we have too much loved and lived for ourselves, too little loved and lived for you, and too little loved our neighbor as ourselves.

**C: Forgive us, Father and give us an unwavering love and trust in you. Move us to love our neighbor by speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves that we may protect the life of the born and the unborn.**

M: Almighty and eternal God, you alone know the number of our days. Yet many today say that people have the right to terminate life according to their own wishes. Help us to realize that no matter what hardship we are facing, each day you give us on this earth is a precious gift.

**C: Help us to understand that you use hardships in our lives to draw us closer to yourself.**

M: Almighty and eternal God, in your mercy, hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they too may know the joy of receiving your help in their need.

Here we, Lord as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

M: We ask this all in the name of Jesus Christ, and to his glory.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### HYMN

*Your Hand, O Lord, In Days Of Old | 520*

M: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of your holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

M: The grace of our Lord +Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow | 334*