

# From Invisible to Indispensable!

“On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable ...”

(1 Corinthians 12:22)



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Sanctity of Life Sunday • Lutherans For Life

## Entrance Hymn: Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing (LSB 847)

Christ, our human likeness sharing, Heaven's love on earth portrayed;  
Christ the Shepherd, tending, caring, In His death our ransom paid:  
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Be Your life in us displayed.

Hear the word that Christ has spoken, Help the weak, the hungry feed;  
See the pow'rs of darkness broken, Sinners pardoned, captives freed:  
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Help us meet our neighbor's need.

Christ, in ev'ry congregation Build Your temple, stone by stone,  
With Your word as firm foundation For a faith matured and grown:  
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Make in us Your Gospel known.

Come, O living Christ, renew us, As of old in wind and flame;  
With the Spirit's pow'r endue us, Servants of Your saving name:  
Christ the Savior, Christ the Servant, Christ whose kingdom we proclaim.

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Introit: Psalm 68:4-6, 19-20 (See "Singing the Psalms," page xxvi, LSB.)

- P** Sing to God, sing praises | to his name; \*
- C** **lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the Lord; exult be- | fore him!**
- P** Father of the fatherless and protector of | widows\*
- C** **is God in his holy habi- | tation.**
- P** God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to pros- | perity,\*
- C** **but the rebellious dwell in a | parched land.**

- P** Blessed be the Lord, who daily | bears us up;\*
- C** **God is our sal- | vation.**
- P** Our God is a God of sal- | vation\*
- C** **and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances | from death.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\* and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise: O Love, How Deep (LSB 544)

O love, how deep, how broad, how high, Beyond all thought and fantasy,  
 That God, the Son of God, should take Our mortal form for mortals' sake!

He sent no angel to our race, Of higher or of lower place,  
 But wore the robe of human frame, And to this world Himself He came.

For us baptized, for us He bore His holy fast and hungered sore;  
 For us temptation sharp He knew; For us the tempter overthrew.

For us He prayed; for us He taught; For us His daily works He wrought,  
 By words and signs and actions thus Still seeking not Himself but us.

For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
 He bore the shameful cross and earth; For us He gave His dying breath.

For us He rose from death again; For us He went on high to reign;  
 For us He sent His Spirit here To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

△ All glory to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad;  
 The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

## Collect

- P** Almighty God, open our eyes to behold Your great love toward us in the humility of Your Son and to know Him in the least ones, that we may serve You by serving our neighbors, until You gather us together to rejoice as brothers and sisters in Your everlasting kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

**1 Samuel 16:4-13** – Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before him.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.” Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will

not sit down till he comes here.” And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-26** – For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia and Verse

*The ALLELUIA and VERSE appropriate to the locally familiar liturgy may be sung.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Matthew 13:31-34, 44** – [Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Creed

### Sermon Hymn: Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace (LSB 844)

Lord of all nations, grant me grace To love all people, ev'ry race;  
And in each person may I see My kindred, loved, redeemed by Thee.

Break down the wall that would divide Thy children, Lord, on ev'ry side.  
My neighbor's good let me pursue; Let Christian love bind warm and true.

Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred By loveless act and thoughtless word.  
Make me to see the wrong I do Will grieve my wounded Lord anew.

Give me Thy courage, Lord, to speak Whenever strong oppress the weak.  
Should I myself the victim be, Help me forgive, rememb'ring Thee.

With Thine own love may I be filled And by Thy Holy Spirit willed,  
That all I touch, where'er I be, May be divinely touched by Thee.

## Sermon

### Offering Hymn: Son of God, Eternal Savior (LSB 842)

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race,  
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead:  
Fill us with Your love and pity, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

As You, Lord, have lived for others, So may we for others live.  
Freely have Your gifts been granted; Freely may Your servants give.  
Yours the gold and Yours the silver, Yours the wealth of land and sea;  
We but stewards of Your bounty Held in solemn trust will be.

Come, O Christ, and reign among us, King of love and Prince of Peace;  
Hush the storm of strife and passion, Bid its cruel discords cease.  
By Your patient years of toiling, By Your silent hours of pain,  
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure, Stem our selfish greed of gain.

Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,  
Word made flesh, whose birth among us Hallows all our human race.  
By Your praying, by Your willing That Your people should be one,  
Grant, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

## Prayers

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** For the Holy Christian Church, gathered here and scattered throughout the world, that by the grace of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we may believe and rejoice that He creates, redeems, and calls every human life as His own precious treasure, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our Christian witness, that this Gospel of Jesus Christ may motivate us to speak His truth and show His love to every neighbor, no matter what age, appearance, or ability, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this land and its authorities, that God grant them wisdom, nobility, and responsibility to safeguard in policy and practice the sanctity of every member of our race, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all medical professionals, that our Savior lend them His own courage and compassion to deliver relief and health, and to reject every temptation to use death as a solution to suffering, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those scheduled for abortion, those experiencing surprise pregnancies, those awaiting adoption, those enduring chronic pain, and those approaching death, that our Heavenly Father sustain them in their distresses and open our hearts and hands to embrace, accompany, and encourage them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who permit, promote, and participate in abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and other violences against life, and especially for those whose hearts have been broken by the abortion of their own children, that God forgive them and turn them from their sin to receive His healing, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our brothers and sisters suffering injuries, illnesses, or disabilities (especially...), that the good Lord visit them in their affliction through the fellowship of His body, preserve their life and their faith, and grant both quick remedy and complete recovery, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For any among us who celebrate gifts of life and family, (especially *[names]* on their birthdays and *[names]* on their anniversaries), that they exult with us in these blessings as tokens of forgiveness in Christ Jesus and foretastes of resurrection to everlasting life in the new creation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

*The service may continue with the liturgy of the Lord's Supper according to local custom. Suggested distribution hymns: Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray (LSB 623); O Lord, We Praise Thee (LSB 617); and Sent Forth By God's Blessing (LSB 643).*

## Lord's Prayer

## **Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor ☩ and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## **Recessional Hymn: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (LSB 849)**

Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer, Praise the One who makes us one.

## **Postlude**

△ The congregation is encouraged to stand in honor of the Triune God.

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