

God Chose You ...
and that changes
everything!



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Sanctity of Life Sunday • Lutherans For Life

Entrance Hymn: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (LSB 909)

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever And our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all Your loving-kindness, Hear Your people as they pray;
And Your fullest benediction Shed within these walls today.

Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful All the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from You, forever With the blessed to retain;
And hereafter in Your glory Evermore with You to reign.

△ Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever three and ever one:
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run!

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Thus says the Lord: No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death.

Ecclesiastes 8:8

G Almighty God, merciful and mighty, we humbly confess that we have not received every member of our race as gift and privilege. We have presumed to exercise Your authority over life and death.

P Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?

Job 31:15

G We have not acknowledged our own helplessness reflected in our neighbor's needs. We have not beheld Your image imprinted upon their bodies and our own.

P Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death.

Matthew 10:21

G We have despised belonging to You. We have denied responsibility for one another.

P Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

Matthew 25:40

G We have let our lips lie silent rather than advocating for the lowly. We have left our hands idle instead of aiding them.

P And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked ... and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ephesians 2:1, 3

G We have worshipped our own desires. We have not served according to Your design.

- P** Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. *Genesis 9:6*
- C** **We were brought forth in sin and have become altogether unrighteous. We have done what is evil in your sight and deserve the punishment we have brought upon ourselves.**
- P** Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home. *Psalm 68:5-6*
- C** **Almighty God, merciful and mighty, we repent of our condition. We plead for Your pardon and Your intervention. Do not cast us off but make us whole, for the sake of Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Substitute, and the only Savior. Amen.**
- P** Thus says the Lord your God: You “have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you.” He has given Himself in Jesus Christ. By His shed blood Your sin is atoned for, and by His risen body Your iniquity is taken away. In His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Isaiah 46:3-4*
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name (LSB 549)

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
 Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
 Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;
 Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown Him Lord of all.
 Extol the stem of Jesse’s rod And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
 Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.

Hail Him, ye heirs of David’s line, Whom David Lord did call,
 The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
 The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget The wormwood and the gall,
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball
 To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
 To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
 We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
 We’ll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

Collect

P Heavenly Father, before the foundation of the world, You chose us in Christ to be Your sons and daughters. Grant us to behold every human life as created, redeemed, and called to be Your precious treasures, that we receive each neighbor as gift and privilege with whom we may rejoice as brothers and sisters in Your everlasting kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49:1-7 – Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the Lord, and my recompense with my God.” And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 – For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Acclamation: Have No Fear, Little Flock (LSB 735)*

Have no fear, little flock; Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen To give you the Kingdom; Have no fear, little flock!
Have good cheer, little flock; Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you In His love forever; Have good cheer, little flock!
Praise the Lord high above; Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you, Uplift and restore you; Praise the Lord high above!
Thankful hearts raise to God; Thankful hearts raise to God,
For He stays close beside you, In all things works with you; Thankful hearts raise to God!

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

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

Gospel Reading

John 15:12-17 [Jesus said:] “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Creed

Sermon Hymn: Lord, ‘Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee (LSB 573)

Lord, ‘tis not that I did choose Thee; That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me Washed and cleansed and set me free
And unto this end ordained me, That I ever live to Thee.

It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my darkened heart and mind,
Else the world had yet enthralled me, To Thy heav’nly glories blind.
Now I worship none above Thee; For Thy grace alone I thirst,
Knowing well that, if I love Thee, Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.

△ Praise the God of all creation; Praise the Father’s boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation, Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation, Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration To the great Jehovah give.

Sermon

Offering Hymn: Chief of Sinners Though I Be (LSB 611)

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me – wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

Prayers

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P God the Father, Almighty Maker of body and spirit,

C have mercy.

P God the Son, Redeemer of humankind,

C have mercy.

P God the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life,

C have mercy.

P For Your rich grace whatever our ages and appearances; for Your great mercy notwithstanding our skills or circumstances; for the forgiveness of our sins; for our salvation from death; for the resurrection of our flesh; for everlasting life in Your presence; and for our inheritance of the new creation,

C All thanks and praise to You, O Lord.

P By Your love as Trinity of Father, Son, and Spirit; by Your incarnation as embryo in the womb and Your birth in a manger from the virgin Mary; by Your growth and obedience as a Son among us; by Your tears for our wounds and Your touch upon our weaknesses, Your bearing our sicknesses and carrying our sorrows; by Your own incapacitation upon the cross and Your death in sweat and blood; by Your rising to life again, leaving even our grave empty and abiding ever beside us; by Your ascension to exalt our nature, order our days, and prepare a place for us; and by Your coming again in glory for our immortality,

C **Help us, good Lord.**

P We poor sinners implore You

C **to hear us, O Lord.**

P To bring an end to abortion and euthanasia; to banish from among us the production and destruction of embryonic brothers and sisters; to turn the hearts of those who permit, promote, or participate in violence against life; to strengthen all medical professionals always to care and never to kill; to move all public officials and elected authorities in support of policies, laws, and verdicts that protect the least of these; to defend our land from division, from aggression, and from the deception of death used as a solution; and to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To preserve from despair everyone facing infertility, unexpected pregnancy, disability, or terminal diagnosis; to relieve those burdened by gender dysphoria; to liberate any enslaved by adultery or perversion; to deliver those scheduled for abortion; to grant safe homes and healthy families to those awaiting adoption; to absolve the guilt and ease the grief of those broken by the abortion of their own children; to work comfort and peace within those surviving the suicides of loved ones; to uphold and heal those suffering discomfort and disease; and to give all who are approaching death a blessed end,

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To gladden us in celebrating gifts of marriage, family, and length of days; to give us courage in speaking Your truth and compassion in showing Your love; to make us ambassadors of Gospel joy in every difficulty and agents of Gospel hope in all affliction; to impart gentleness and respect to our words and bestow sensitivity and winsomeness on our ways; and to bid us rejoice when any heart changes and delight with every saved life,

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

C **hear us.**

P O Lord,

C **have mercy.**

P O Christ,
C have mercy.

P O Lord,
C have mercy. Amen.

The service may continue with the liturgy of the Lord's Supper according to local custom. Suggested distribution hymns: Church of God, Elect and Glorious (LSB 646); Take My Life and Let It Be (LSB 783); and Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (LSB 851).

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: Go, My Children, with My Blessing (LSB 922)

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are My own.
In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.
I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children, I will keep you And give you peace.

Postlude

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

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