



Sanctity of Life Sunday • Lutherans For [Life](#)

Entrance Hymn: Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (LSB 802)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest – to both great and small –
In all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish – but naught changes Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light that hides Thee.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Romans 13:12

C **God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

1 John 1:5

P And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.

John 3:19

C **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

Psalms 90:8

P If your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

Matthew 6:23

C **I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication.**

Micah 7:9

P Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

Isaiah 50:10

Our Savior Christ Jesus has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light.

2 Timothy 1:10

As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit: Psalm 27:1-2, 5-6, 13-14

P The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C **The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

P When evildoers assail me to eat my flesh,

C **my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

P For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

C **he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.**

P And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,

C **and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

P I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord

C **in the land of the living!**

P Wait for the Lord;

C **be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Hymn of Praise: O Day of Rest and Gladness (LSB 906)

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, Most beautiful, most bright;
This day the high and lowly, Through ages joined to bless,
Sing, "Holy, holy, holy," The triune God confess.

This day at earth's creation The light first had its birth;
This day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
This day our Lord victorious The Spirit sent from heav'n,
And thus this day most glorious A threefold light was giv'n.

△ That light our hope sustaining, We walk the pilgrim way,
At length our rest attaining, Our endless Sabbath day.
We sing to Thee our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
The Church her voice upraises To Thee, blest Three in One.

Collect

P O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives, we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Isaiah 9:2-7 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no

end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 5:6-14 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Creed

Sermon 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 prisoners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing every 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 every 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.

Sermon

Offering Hymn: Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun (LSB 868)

Awake, my soul, and with the sun Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth and joyful rise To pay thy morning sacrifice.

Direct, control, suggest this day All I design or do or say
That all my powers with all their might In Thy sole glory may unite.

All praise to Thee, who safe has kept And has refreshed me while I slept;
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.

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, our Heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, the fruit of Your Spirit is love. Grant us to know that You have made all humankind for relationship and

community and grant us to receive both our neighbor's life and our own as gift and privilege. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P The fruit of Your Spirit is joy. Your Son has come among us in suffering and resurrection that we may find delight in You and in each other. By the blessings that come from sharing life together (especially [*name(s)*] who mark birthdays and [*name(s)*] who mark anniversaries), stir us to bear burdens and meet needs for one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P The fruit of Your Spirit is peace. Let the authorities of our people respect the sanctity of every human life and let the laws of our land reflect it. Drive away all complacency and cowardice from us that we may undertake civic action and public service to secure the welfare of the vulnerable. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P The fruit of Your Spirit is patience. Visit with the presence and power of Your Son any who experience surprise pregnancy, terminal diagnosis, infertility, or any other affliction (especially [*name(s)*]). For His sake relieve quickly that they recover completely and strengthen them to wait upon Your good and gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P The fruit of Your Spirit is kindness. Work repentance, forgiveness, and healing in the hearts of those broken by the abortion of their own children or any other sin against the sanctity of human life. Keep us from ever viewing death as a solution to difficulty and put our trust in Your words and ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P The fruit of Your Spirit is goodness. Remove the evils of abortion, abuse, abandonment, euthanasia, suicide, embryo destruction, discrimination, and all other violences from among us. Make us instead to abound as You do in charity, goodwill, and fellowship. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P The fruit of Your Spirit is faithfulness. Embolden us to give voice to the worth and purpose of every person, no matter what age, appearance, or ability, and to hold fast this Gospel confession even under opposition and ridicule. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P The fruit of Your Spirit is gentleness. Endow our witness with courage and compassion, that we speak the truth of God in humility and show the love of Christ in servanthood. Soften and reform the hearts that advocate or entertain immorality until they stand beside us as sisters and brothers. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P The fruit of Your Spirit is self-control. Move us to expose and expel all the works of darkness by beholding and belonging to Your Light, even Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The service may continue with the liturgy of the Lord's Supper according to local custom. Suggested distribution hymns: Thy Strong Word (LSB 578); The People That in Darkness Sat (LSB 412); and I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (LSB 411).

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: Christ Be My Leader (LSB 861)

Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Postlude

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