



Do not forsake me, O LORD.

O my God, be not far from me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.

+ Psalm 38:21–22

**SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE**

January 31, 2021



*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." + John 10:10*



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today the Church celebrates and affirms the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. We do so because we cannot do otherwise—we are bound by the Word of God and constrained by the Holy Spirit to fear, love, and trust in God above all things. Raised to new life in the blessed water of Holy Baptism, we live now as His people, obedient to His good and gracious will.

As Saint Paul reminds us, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19b-20a).

Our lives are not our own nor are the lives of others ours to do with as we please. Rather, in fidelity to God's Fifth Commandment ("You shall not murder."), we "fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need" (Small Catechism, Fifth Commandment).

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

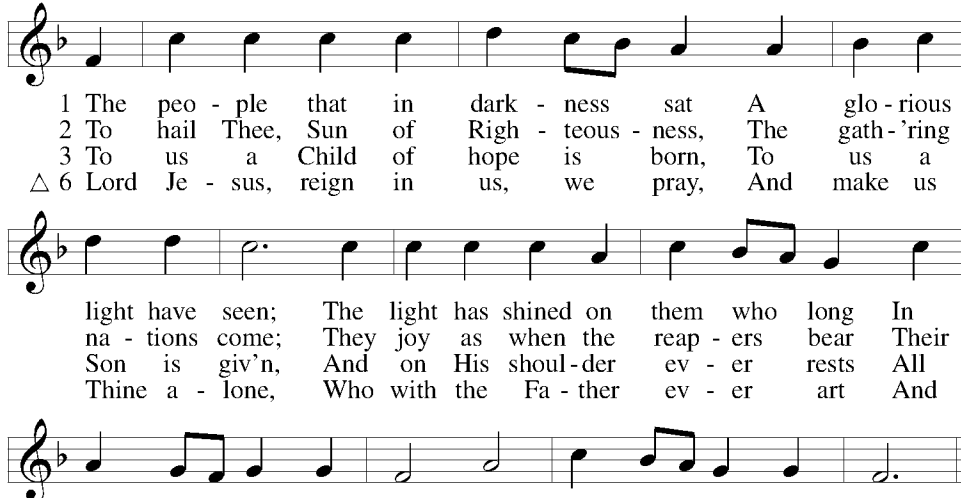
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## ✠ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE ✠

### HYMN OF INVOCATION: The People That in Darkness Sat

LSB 412, sts. 1–3, 6



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
△ 6 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, And make us  
light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
Thine a - lone, Who with the Fa - ther ev - er art And  
shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
Ho - ly Spir - it, one, And Ho - ly Spir - it, one.

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

*Stand – The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 184

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*[Hebrews 10:22]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

*Psalms 124:8*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Psalms 32:5*

*Kneel (or remain standing) — Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

*Mark 16:16; John 1:12*

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

Psalm 30:1, 4-5; antiphon: v. 10

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.*



(Antiphon) Hear, O LORD, and be merci- | ful to me!\*

O LORD, be my | helper!

<sup>1</sup> I will extol You, O LORD, for You have | drawn me up\*  
and have not let my foes rejoice | over me.

<sup>4</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, O | you His saints,\*  
and give thanks to His | holy name.**

<sup>5</sup> For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a | lifetime.\*  
Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the | morning.

**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.**

*The antiphon is repeated.*

### KYRIE

Mark 10:47



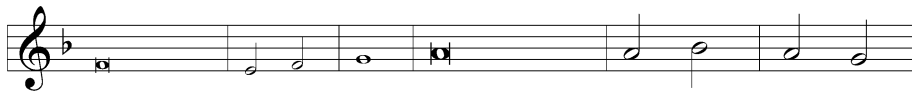
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



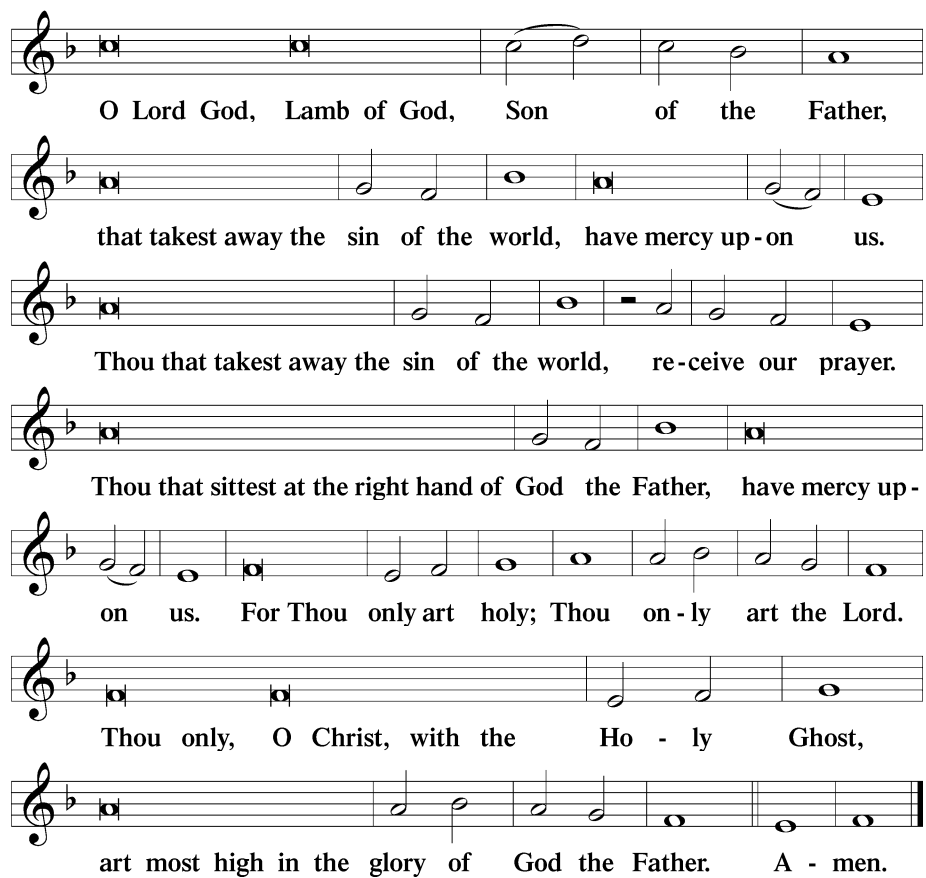
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
 that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.  
 Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.  
 Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-  
 on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.  
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,  
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose compassion never fails and who invites us to call upon You in prayer, hear the heartfelt confession of our sins and receive our humble supplication for Your mercy. Spare us from the just punishment of sin, which our Lord Jesus Christ has borne for us, and enable us to serve You in holiness and purity of life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 9:1–4

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter nine.

<sup>1</sup>There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.  
<sup>3</sup> 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.  
<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

Isaiah 55:6–7

*The pastor and congregation chant responsively by half-verse.*



<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while He | may be found,\*  
**call upon Him while | He is near;**  
<sup>7</sup> let the wicked for- | sake his way,\*  
**and the unrighteous | man his thoughts;**  
let him return to the LORD, that He may have compas- | sion on him,\*  
**and to our God, for He will abundantly | pardon.**

## EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 4:1–6

**P** The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, chapter four.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup>But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA & VERSE



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Alleluia. Do not forsake me, O LORD. O my God, be not far from me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation. Alleluia.

*Psalm 38:21–22*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 4:13–17*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the fourth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>And leaving Nazareth He went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people dwelling in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,  
on them a light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**”

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



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: Come unto Me, Ye Weary**

LSB 684



1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."  
2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."  
3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."  
4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!  
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!  
O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!  
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par - don, grace, and peace,  
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;  
The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;  
Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.  
But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.  
But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.  
In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

**SERMON**

*Rev. Griebenaw*

*After the sermon, the pastor may say:*

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippains 4:7*

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



**C** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

*Kneel (or remain standing)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: The Litany

(1 Timothy 2:1–4)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>P</b> O Lord,  | <b>C</b> have mercy.                   |
| <b>P</b> O Christ,  | <b>C</b> have mercy.                   |
| <b>P</b> O Lord,  | <b>C</b> have mercy.                   |
| <b>P</b> O Christ,  | <b>C</b> hear us.                      |
| <b>P</b> God the Father in heaven,  | <b>C</b> have mercy.                   |
| <b>P</b> God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  | <b>C</b> have mercy.                   |
| <b>P</b> God the Holy Spirit,   | <b>C</b> have mercy.                   |
| <b>P</b> Be gracious to us.   | <b>C</b> Spare us, good Lord.          |
| <b>P</b> Be gracious to us.   | <b>C</b> Help us, good Lord.           |
| <b>P</b> From all sin, from all error, from all evil;<br>From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;<br>From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;<br>From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:    | <b>C</b> <b>Good Lord, deliver us.</b> |
| <b>P</b> By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;<br>By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat;<br>By Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;<br>By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter: | <b>C</b> <b>Help us, good Lord.</b>    |
| <b>P</b> In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:   | <b>C</b> <b>Help us, good Lord.</b>    |
| <b>P</b> We poor sinners implore You  | <b>C</b> <b>to hear us, O Lord.</b>    |



**P** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living; To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;  
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

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

**P** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

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

**P** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;  
To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people; To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;  
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

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

**P** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

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

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** **we implore You to hear us.**

**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 live-stream service concludes with the following:*

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be Thy name,**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;**

**give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

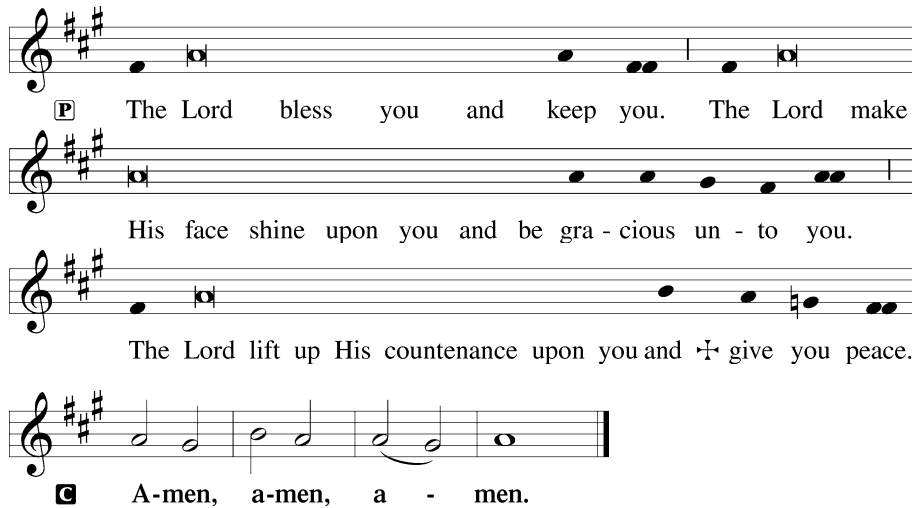
Almighty and eternal God, we adore You as the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus, and with the whole Church on earth and all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and blessing, thanksgiving and praise. Holy, holy, holy are You, Lord God Almighty; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. You created us in Your own image and redeemed us with the precious blood of Your Son. By Your Spirit You sanctified us and called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light. Grant that we may with thankful hearts receive these great mercies and express our gratitude, not only with our lips but also in our lives as we give ourselves to Your service and walk before You in holiness and righteousness all our days. Deliver us from sin and error, from the frailties of the flesh, the allurements of this present age, and the temptations of the devil. Give us faith that works in love, hope that never disappoints, kindness that never fails, confidence in You that never wavers, patience that does not grow weary, and courage always ready to confess Christ, that we may live in Your mercy and die in Your peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

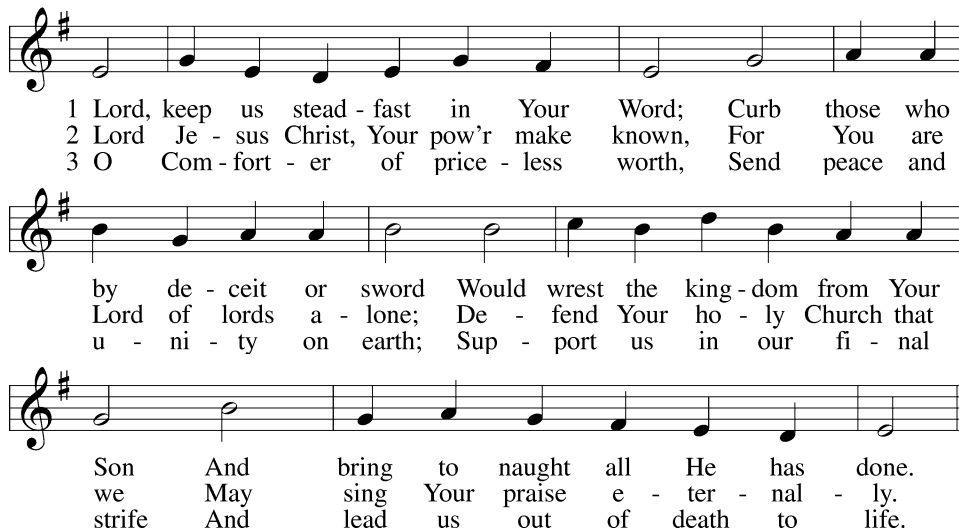


**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make  
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.  
**C** A - men, a - men, a - men.

*The Divine Service continues with the Lord's Supper for those at the church. Please sing/read aloud the closing hymn and come by later for Holy Communion between 10:30am and 11:30am, parking by the concrete ramp along Holt Avenue.*

## CLOSING HYMN: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

*LSB 655*



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and  
by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your  
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that  
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal  
Son And bring to naught all He has done.  
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
strife And lead us out of death to life.

*Text and tune: Public Domain*

**† SOLI DEO GLORIA †**  
**(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)**

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters,

Ahhh... Sanctity of Human Life Sunday! That Sunday when my sermon can hit ALL THREE of the hands-off-categories of polite conversation ALL AT ONCE: Sex, Religion, and Politics! LOL!

All joking aside, the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death is an especially important topic for the Church BECAUSE it intersects all three of these categories.—three categories that have been grossly misshapen in this modern age. Yet at the heart of all three is the human person: sex as the genesis, Christianity (religion) serving the soul, and government (politics) serving the body.

The human person is the pinnacle of God's creation! We're the only creatures made in the image and likeness of God. Yes, the human being is an amazing thing! So amazing, in fact, that **God Himself assumed human nature—He has taken it up within Himself!** True God *and* True Man.

It is on this basis—on this *truth*—that **the Church stands against the wanton destruction of human life through such acts as abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia.**

Often when people hear “sanctity of human life” or “pro-life,” they think only of the Church’s advocacy against aborting babies in the womb but the sinful world is attacking the sanctity of human life throughout all stages of life! **We must never forget that each human person has inherent worth!**

And, likewise, we must never forget that our lives are not our own. Our lives are not the work of our hands or the work of our wills, for none of us called ourselves into being nor did we knit ourselves together in our mother’s womb. **Our existence is the work of God—*life is a gift from Him!***

Life is entrusted to our care but it is not ours to dispose of or end at our own pleasure. Neither are the lives of our children ours to terminate when we see fit—not in light of future pains or the likelihood of illness and especially not because a child is “unwanted” or “destined to a life of poverty.” Life is a gift and every child is wanted by the Lord.

And the Church is called to be present to care for the young and the old, to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry, to protect the helpless . . . to “bear on another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:2)” There is a great deal of work for the Church to be doing, both in her active defense of human dignity and the sanctity of life, as well as in the support and care for all in need.

In our own community, the IV Life Center is helping greatly. If you haven’t watched the video yet, please check it out on our website—<https://www.gracelutheranelcentro.org/ivlifecenter>. As I mentioned last week, Holly is now a member of their Board of Directors.

Also, please join me for our study of the Psalms, meeting on “Zoom” every Tuesday at Noon. This week we study Psalm 35. Then tune-in on Wednesday at 7:00pm on Facebook for our Midweek Prayer Service.

- To join the study on your computer, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7603525715>
- To join by phone, call either “669-900-9128” or “346-248-7799” and enter 7603525715#
- The password for both (computer or telephone) is “12345”

Lastly, please continue to mail your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box: Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church, PO Box 1530, El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
+Pastor Griebenaw

