

Divine Service, Setting Three

Sanctity of Life Sunday

18 January 2026

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN: □"SOVEREIGN RULER OF THE SKIES"

(TUNE LSB 783)

- 1 Sovereign Ruler of the skies,
Ever gracious, ever wise,
All my times are in your hand,
All events at your command.

- 2 He that formed me in the womb
Guides my footsteps till the tomb;
All my times shall ever be
Ordered by his wise decree.

- 3 Mortal dangers round me fly;
Till he bids, I cannot die;
Not a single arrow hits
Till, in love, our God permits.

- 4 God all-gracious, wise and just,
In your hands my life I trust;
You at all times I will bless:
Having you, I all possess.

Stand

INVOCATION

¶ In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSİON AND ABSOLUTİON

PSALM 139

¶ O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
C You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
¶ You search out my path and my lying down
C and are acquainted with all my ways.
¶ Even before a word is on my tongue,
C behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
¶ You hem me in, behind and before,

C and lay your hand upon me.

P Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

C it is high; I cannot attain it.

P Almighty and Everlasting God, Your understanding comprehends all things. You see how Your creatures have departed from Your wise design. You know the desires of all humankind have become entirely unrighteous. Our thoughts, words, and deeds worship us above You and serve self instead of one another. Yet Your Son has assumed our feeble nature and feels our weakness and need. For the sake of His sacrifice, remember us in mercy. Lay not Your hand of reckoning upon us and grant remission of all our sins.

C Amen.

P Where shall I go from your Spirit?

C Or where shall I flee from your presence?

P If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

C If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

P If I take the wings of the morning

C and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

P even there your hand shall lead me,

C and your right hand shall hold me.

P If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

C and the light about me be night,"

P even the darkness is not dark to you;

C the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

P O Lord, our Heavenly Father, You pursue us in jealousy to the ends of the heavens and earth. We cannot flee from Your judgment nor hide from the punishments we deserve. But Your Son, our Savior Christ Jesus, has traded our guilt in exchange for His glory. His death and resurrection have brought us the light of life everlasting. Drive our evils away from us with repentance, forgiveness, and faith, that we may behold Your goodness now and evermore.

C Amen.

P For you formed my inward parts;

C you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

P I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

C Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

P My frame was not hidden from you,

C when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

P Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them,

C the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

P How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

C How vast is the sum of them!

P If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

C I awake, and I am still with you.

P Children of men, do not fear! Incarnate Christ Jesus has come among us, sharing both womb and world, plumbed the depths of the earth, plundered death and the tomb. Take heart, for the Almighty Maker has created, redeemed, and called you His own. Upon your confession, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Oh, that you would slay the wicked, O God!

C O men of blood, depart from me!

¶ They speak against you with malicious intent;

¶ **C your enemies take your name in vain.**

¶ Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?

¶ **C And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?**

¶ I hate them with complete hatred;

¶ **C I count them my enemies.**

¶ Search me, O God, and know my heart!

¶ **C Try me and know my thoughts!**

¶ And see if there be any grievous way in me,

¶ **C and lead me in the way everlasting!**

¶ **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.**

¶ Lord God, our Father and Savior, open our hearts to receive and delight in Your wonders. Open our lips to rejoice and proclaim all Your works. Strengthen us in flesh and spirit to refuse wickedness and replace the lust for control with Your own truth and love. Give us courage to rescue the vulnerable and compassion to relieve the victim that together we may share Your life.

¶ **C Amen.**

Sit

HYMN OF PRAISE: //“HOW GREAT THOU ART”

LSB 801

1 **O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder**
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

2 **But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,**
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

3 **When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation**
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!”
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JOB 10:9-13

Remember that you have made me like clay; and will you return me to the dust? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. Yet these things you hid in your heart; I know that this was your purpose.

¶ This is the Word of the Lord.

¶ Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

HEBREWS 2:5-18

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet."

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

¶ This is the Word of the Lord.

¶ Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA

¶ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 10:24-33

¶ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the tenth chapter.

¶ Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

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.

CATECHETICAL VERSE TO KNOW BY HEART

The Second Article

Redemption

C And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Sit

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near
Joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning**
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 Praise to the Lord! O 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!

By Pastor John Schmidt

Stand

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

OFFERTORY

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit**OFFERING**

As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.

- 1 **We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**
- 2 **May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!**

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

PRAYERS

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

¶ O Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You have fearfully and wonderfully made us, created, redeemed, and called every member of our race from fertilization to forever, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. Lend us Your Holy Spirit that our lips may sound it forth with courage and our lives may show it forth in compassion. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

¶ In Your book are written, Lord God, every one of our days. Receive our thankfulness for the birthdays and anniversaries celebrated among us this week, and graciously strengthen us by these blessings to appreciate each neighbor as a gift and privilege. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

¶ You have searched us and see every grievous way in us. Forgive us for any hesitance in assisting our neighbors endangered by sinful measures such as abortion and assisted suicide. Grant the vulnerable ones protection and rescue, grant our land reprieve from these evils, and grant repentance to all who permit or promote them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

¶ Your all-encompassing presence and power hems us in behind and before. Work wisdom, commitment, and integrity in our officials and elected representatives that they may exercise Your authority to restrain vice and reward virtue. Secure for us a safe, free, and fair nation wherein we implement the sanctity of every human life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

¶ Dear Father in heaven, even the darkness is as light to You. Let Your relief and healing rest upon those among our number with injuries, illnesses, and any other ailments of body or soul. Draw near in consolation to those of us experiencing surprise pregnancy, terminal diagnosis, infertility, abuse, or abandonment, that they may find hope and joy in Your kingdom. For Jesus' sake, take away the guilt and shame of hearts broken by the abortion of their own children. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

¶ Lead us, O Lord and Savior, in the way everlasting. Unite us in Your Son as brothers and sisters sharing faith and fellowship unto abundant and eternal life, through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

PREFACE

¶ The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

¶ Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

¶ Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

¶ It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh

You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

C.Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LORD'S PRAYER

P 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.

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

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. Amen.

AGNUS DEI

C. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: "GRACIOUS SAVIOR, GENTLE SHEPHERD"

TLH 627

**1 Gracious Savior, gentle Shepherd,
Children all are dear to you;
May your loving arms enfold them
In your care their whole life through.
By your tending and protecting
Keep them safe in all they do.**

**2 Tender Shepherd, never leave them,
Never let them go astray;
By your warning love directed,
May they walk the narrow way.
Thus direct them, thus defend them
Lest they fall an easy prey.**

- 3 By your holy Word instruct them,
Fill their minds with heav'nly light;
By your pow'rful grace convince them
Always to approve what's right.
Let them feel your yoke is easy,
Let them find your burden light.
- 4 Taught to love the holy praises
Which on earth your children sing,
With their lips and hearts, sincerely,
Glad thank-off'rings may they bring,
Then with all the saints in glory
Join to praise their Lord and King

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: „HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA”

LSB 443

- 1 Hosanna, loud hosanna,
The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple
The lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them,
Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises,
The simplest and the best.
- 2 From Olivet they followed
Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving
And chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven
Rode on in lowly state
Nor scorned that little children
Should on His bidding wait.
- 3 “Hosanna in the highest!”
That ancient song we sing;
For Christ is our Redeemer
The Lord of heav'n our King.
Oh, may we ever praise Him
With heart and life and voice
And in His blissful presence
Eternally rejoice!

Text: Public domain

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**
- 3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

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Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

¶ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

¶ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

¶ and His mercy endureth forever.

¶ Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

¶ Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

P The Lord be with you.

C♪ **And with thy spirit.**

P Bless we the Lord.

C♪ **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C♪ **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ♪"GOD, WHO MADE THE EARTH AND HEAVEN"

LSB 877

- 1** **God, who made the earth and heaven, Darkness and light:**
You the day for work have given, For rest the night.
May Your angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet Your mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us, All through the night.
- 2** **And when morn again shall call us To run life's way.**
May we still, whate'er befall us, Your will obey.
From the pow'r of evil hide us,
In the narrow pathway guide us,
Never be Your smile denied us All through the day.
- 3** **Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, And when we die,**
May we in Your mighty keeping All peaceful lie.
When the last dread call shall wake us,
Then, O Lord, do not forsake us,
But to reign in glory take us With You on high.
- 4** **Holy Father, throned in heaven, All-holy Son,**
Holy Spirit, freely given, Blest Three in One:
Grant us grace, we now implore You,
Till we lay our crowns before You
And in worthier strains adore You While ages run.

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS