

Divine Service, Setting Three

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Blessed for Life

22 January 2023

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

ENTRANCE HYMN: ♪ "ALL YOU WORKS OF GOD, BLESS THE LORD"

LSB 930

- 1 All you works of God, bless the Lord!
All you angels, now bless the Lord;
Come, you heavens and pow'rs that be,
Praise the Lord and His majesty: Refrain**

Refrain:

**Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!
Raise your voices high, praise and magnify,
All you works of God, bless the Lord!**

- 2 Sing, you sun and you moon above,
Stars of heaven, now sing His love;
Dew and showers, you winds that blow,
Heat and fire, you ice and snow: Refrain**
- 3 Frost of winter with song so cold,
Dews of summer, your song unfold;
Light and darkness, you day and night,
Clouds of thunder, you lightnings bright: Refrain**
- 4 Hills and mountains, now sing His worth,
All you green things that grow on earth;
Seas and rivers, you springs and wells,
Beasts and cattle, you birds and whales: Refrain**
- 5 Come, humanity, sing along,
Sing, you people of God, a song;
Priests and servants, your Lord now bless,
Join, you spirits and souls at rest: Refrain**

- △6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart;
All you humble, His praise impart;
God the Father and Son adore,
Bless the Spirit forevermore! Refrain**

Stand

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!" *Psalm 41:4*
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**
P His heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad. *Psalm 41:6*
C **We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**
P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. *Psalm 41:9*
C **We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
P They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies." *Psalm 41:8*
C **We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.**
P But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up. *Psalm 41:10*
C **For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us.**
P By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. *Psalm 41:11*
C **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**
P You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! *Psalm 41:12-13*
C **so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.**
P Blessed is the one who considers the poor. In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive. 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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Psalm 41:1-2*
C Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF PRAISE: ♪ "O BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL"

LSB 814

- 1 O bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favors are divine.
- 2 O bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die!
- 3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;
'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And makes thee young again.

- 4 He crowns thy life with love
When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.**
- 5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.**
- 6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His beloved Son.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Text: Public domain

Stand

COLLECT

P Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation, grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

GENESIS 1:26–31A

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

EPHESIANS 1:3–10

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of

his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF ACCLAMATION: ♪ "BLESSED JESUS, AT YOUR WORD"

LSB 904

1 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight

Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.

3 Gracious Savior, good and kind,

Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

△4 Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,

Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

Text (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, 1707, Berlin; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt. Text: Public domain

Stand

ALLELUIA

♪ Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 5:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

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

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life \dagger everlasting. Amen.

CATECHETICAL VERSE

The Sixth Petition

C And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

C God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

Sit

SERMON HYMN: ♪ "GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY"

LSB 765

1 God moves in a mysterious way

His wonders to perform;

He plants His footsteps in the sea

And rides upon the storm.

2 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,

But trust Him for His grace;

Behind a frowning providence

Faith sees a smiling face.

3 His purposes will ripen fast,

Unfolding ev'ry hour;

The bud may have a bitter taste,

But sweet will be the flow'r.

**4 Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.**

**5 You fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds you so much dread
Are big with mercy and will break
In blessings on your head.**

Text: William Cowper, 1731–1800, alt. Text: Public domain

SERMON: "CHOOSE LIFE: BE A BLESSED BLESSING FOR OTHERS"

DEUTERONOMY 30:19-20

By Pastor John Schmidt

Stand

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

G Amen.

OFFERTORY

GJ 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.

OFFERING HYMN: J "WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN

LSB 781 V. 1-2

**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

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

P Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Heavenly Father, grant us all humility to recognize the sanctity of every human life You have created, redeemed, and called as Your own precious treasure and to receive each neighbor as gift and privilege. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Let us speak Your grace and show Your forgiveness to any whose hearts have been broken by the abortion of their own children or by participation in any other violence against the sanctity of life, that they may turn to You in trust. Lord, in Your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

P Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. By our witness and assistance, deliver from death, deception, and despair those scheduled for abortion, those awaiting adoption, those experiencing surprise pregnancy, those facing terminal diagnosis, those considering suicide or euthanasia, and those endangering embryonic human beings. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. In our time, in our land, and the world over, bring an end to abortion, embryocide, physician-assisted suicide, and all pressures to use death as a solution to suffering. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Guide the minds and hands of medical professionals to serve as instruments of Your saving and healing care and to resist the temptation to hasten the end of any human life; and especially do we implore Your visitation and intervention to relieve the afflictions of our brothers and sisters, *[names]*. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Multiply unto us the celebrations of body, family, and length of days that we rejoice with gratitude to You for these undeserved and undivided delights. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Provide and preserve lawmakers and officials over us who safeguard the sanctity of every human life in public policy and practice, and move us to support and encourage them. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Open our ears and loosen our tongues to advocate for every neighbor's welfare with courage and compassion, and work calm and consensus through our respectful dialogue and enthusiastic servanthood. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great. Cheer our spirits with forgiveness, faith, and fellowship, until by repentance and resurrection we enter into everlasting life before You, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

G **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.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

GJ **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

- 1 I leave all things to God's direction;
He loves me both in joy and woe.
His will is good, sure His affection;
His tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is He:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

- 2 God knows what must be done to save me;
His love for me will never cease.
Upon His hands He did engrave me
With purest gold of loving grace.
His will supreme must ever be:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

- 3 My God desires the soul's salvation;
My soul He, too, desires to save.
Therefore with Christian resignation
All earthly troubles I will brave.
His will be done eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

- 4 My God has all things in His keeping;
He is the ever faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping,
And all His ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

Text: Salomo Franck, 1659–1725; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

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