



# Sanctity of Life Sunday

*Upon the Occasion of*

*The Annunciation of Our Lord*

## OPENING HYMN

*Praise To The Lord, The Almighty | 234 (1-2)*

## INVOCATION

m: In the name of the Father and of the Son  $\text{†}$ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## RESPONSIVE LITANY

*Psalm 139, selected verses*

m O Lord, you have searched me and you know me.

C **You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

m You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

C **Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.**

m Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

C **If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

m If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea

C **Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**

m If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me."

C **Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

m For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

C **I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

m My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

C **Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

m How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

C **Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand.**

m Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

C **See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

## HYMN RESPONSE

*Praise To The Lord, The Almighty | 234 (3-5)*

*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.  
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.*

*Praise to the Lord! Oh, 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!*

## CONFESSION OF SINS

m Dear friends, we have come into the presence of God, by whose very hand we are each fearfully and wonderfully made. We have come to listen to God, who spoke the heavens and the earth into existence. We have come to humbly acknowledge his rightful claim on our bodies, lives, and souls, as our Creator, Savior, and Sanctifier. Therefore, let us confess to him our sinful nature and sinful deeds.

**C Heavenly Father and Creator of Life, you have given us the great blessing of human life. The life you give is so precious because it is our time of grace to learn about life with you, given us in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Father, for the times we have neglected to acknowledge you as Creator of all life. Forgive us, Father, for our silence in the face of opposition to life. Forgive us, Father, for our slowness to speak up on behalf of the unborn and others who cannot speak for themselves. In this and so many other ways, we have sinned against you and deserve only your wrath and punishment. Forgive us, Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son.**

## HYMN RESPONSE

*When O'er My Sins I Sorrow | 109 (1-2)*

*When o'er my sins I sorrow, Lord, I will look to you  
And hence my comfort borrow That you were slain for me.  
Your precious blood was offered For me, oh, most unworthy,  
To take away my guilt.*

*Oh, what a marv'lous off'ring! Behold, the Master spares  
His servants, and their suff'ring And grief for them he bears.  
Our God comes down from heaven; For me, his guilty creature,  
He deigns as man to die.*

m The Lord has had mercy on us. The lifeblood of his Son, Jesus Christ, was given for us, so that we might have eternal life. Conceived and born a man, his perfect life and innocent death have restored a right relationship between God and man. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

#### **HYMN RESPONSE**

*When O'er My Sins I Sorrow | 109 (3-4)*

*My manifold transgression Henceforth can harm me none  
Since Jesus' bloody passion For me God's grace has won.  
His blood my debt has canceled; Of hell and all its torments  
I am no more afraid.*

*Therefore I will forever Give thanks continually,  
O Jesus, loving Savior, For what you did for me.  
I'll spend my breath in praises For your sad cry, your suff'rings,  
Your wounds, your guiltless death.*

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

m Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we, who have known the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ, announced by an angel, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 7:10-14*

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you <sup>c</sup> a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and <sup>d</sup> will call him Immanuel.

## PSALM OF THE DAY

*My Soul, Now Bless Your Maker | 257*

## EPISTLE LESSON

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Here I am – it is written about me in the scroll – I have come to do your will, O God.’”

<sup>8</sup> First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them” (although the law required them to be made). <sup>9</sup> Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

*The Mighty One has done great things for me. (Luke 1:49a)*

## GOSPEL

*Luke 1:26-38*

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For nothing is impossible with God.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Lord Of All Nations, Grant Me Grace* | 521

## SERMON

*Based on the \_\_\_\_\_*

*“theme”*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*We All Believe in One True God* | 270

## OFFERING

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

m Almighty and eternal God, when mankind threw the gift of eternal life with you away in the Garden of Eden, you restored it to them with the gift of your Son, promised in the Garden, foretold by the prophets, conceived and born of a virgin, sent to die for the world’s sins.

**C Give us the strength to share the promise of forgiveness with those who are hurting, with those who have no hope, with those who do not yet know you.**

m Almighty and eternal God, you are the Creator and Preserver of life. It is you who knits every child together in their mother’s womb. As we consider how wonderfully you made us, help us to grow in our appreciation for your wisdom and power. We ask you to open the eyes of those who embrace the practice of abortion. Lead them to cherish the life you create in the womb.

**C Help anyone who has had, encouraged, or performed an abortion to find forgiveness and pardon through faith in Jesus Christ.**

m Almighty and eternal God, you know everything about us. You know that at times we have too much loved and lived for ourselves, too little loved and lived for you, and too little loved our neighbor as ourselves.

**C Forgive us, Father, and give us an unwavering love and trust in you. Move us to love our neighbor by speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves that we may protect the life of the born and the unborn.**

m Almighty and eternal God, you alone know the number of our days. Yet many today say that people have the right to terminate life according to their own wishes. Help us to realize that no matter what hardship we are facing, each day you give us on this earth is a marvelous gift.

**C Help us to understand that you use hardships in our lives to draw us closer to yourself.**

m Almighty and eternal God, give us hearts that value human life as you value human life. Enable us to support the sanctity of human life in our country and community and to support with our prayers and gifts the work of local pregnancy help centers, including the Choices of Life Centers in Racine and Kenosha.

**C Bless the efforts of all Christians to preserve lives and souls through the powerful and saving gospel of Christ Crucified for the world's sins.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

m Almighty and eternal God, in your mercy, hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they too may know the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this all in the name of Jesus Christ, and to his glory.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### HYMN

*Shepherd Of Tender Youth | 515 (1-3)*

*Shepherd of tender youth, Guiding in love and truth Through devious ways,  
Christ, our triumphant King, We come your name to sing  
And here our children bring To join your praise.*

*You are our holy Lord, Christ, the incarnate Word, Healer of strife.  
You did yourself abase That from sin's deep disgrace  
You might thus save our race And give us life.*

*You are our great High Priest; You have prepared the feast Of holy love;  
And in our mortal pain None calls on you in vain;  
Our plea do not disdain: Help from above!*

## PRAYER

m Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of your holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

m The grace of our Lord †Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

*Shepherd Of Tender Youth | 515 (4-5)*

*Oh, ever be our guide, Our shepherd and our pride, Our staff and song.  
Jesus, O Christ of God, By your enduring Word  
Lead us where you have trod; Make our faith strong.*

*So now and till we die Sound we your praises high And joyful sing;  
Infants and all the throng Who to your Church belong  
Unite to swell the song To Christ, our King.*