

# Sanctity of Life Sunday

## Opening Hymn: Lord of Life (Tune: CW 486)

Lord of life, Whose hand has made us, formed us each with tender care. You had crowned man with Your image, not intending such despair. Yet through sin the glory faded, death and doom came in its place.

But in spite of our condition, we've been rescued by Your grace!

God so loved the world, He gave us Jesus Christ to bear our sin. On the cross His life He offered, that we might be His again. And the Holy Spirit calls us by the gospel's joyful ring.

Making us His own dear children; us, eternal life to bring.

Lord of Life, who rose in triumph, conquering death and giving hope, You have called us and equipped us, in a sinful world to cope; Teaching us to love each other, to befriend and help in strife;

To forgive and seek to comfort, and preserve the gift of life.

Help us, Lord, to see as You do, life is precious in each stage. From the unborn to the feeble, life is precious in each age.

Help us, Lord to be Your witness and to show the world we care. So that people may not perish, but, instead, Your life may share.

P: In the name of the Father,

**C: Who has made us and all people;**

P: And of the Son,

**C: Who lived and died that all people might live;**

P: And of the Holy Spirit,

**C: Who has given us a second birth.**

## Confession

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are not worthy to be in the presence of this holy God. But He has promised that if we confess our sins, He will purify us from all unrighteousness. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him.

**People: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess that so often we think, speak, and behave as if Your abiding presence makes no difference in our lives. Instead of allowing Christ to be exalted in all things, we seek to exalt ourselves. We fail to trust that He is present and at work in all our circumstances. Do not cast us from Your presence, Lord. Forgive us, and restore to us the joy of Your salvation.**

Pastor: Be of good cheer! God holds the cross of His Son before your eyes and assures you that your sins have been paid through His atoning sacrifice. Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Psalm 27**

Pastor: Having received the forgiveness of sins, we can now enter with joy into the presence of God, and we can be assured of that presence in all the circumstances of our lives. There is nothing to fear! The LORD is my light and my salvation—

**People: Whom shall I fear?**

Pastor: The LORD is the stronghold of my life—

**People: Of whom shall I be afraid?**

Pastor: When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,

**People: When my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.**

Pastor: Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;

**People: Though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.**

Pastor: One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:

**People: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.**

Pastor: For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling;

**People: He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.**

Pastor: Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;

**People: At His tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

**All: 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.**

**First Lesson:** Habakkuk 3:16-19

“I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.”

**[Anthem by Choir]**

**Second Lesson:** 1 John 3:1-2

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

**C:     ♪ Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia**  
**These words are written that we may believe**  
**that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia**

**Gospel Lesson: Mark 2:1-12**

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . ." He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

**People:**     ♪ **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

**[Children's Sermon]****Hymn - All Things Were Made By God's Great Power – Tallis Canon - CW 334)**

All:             All things were made by God's great pow'r,  
The tallest tree, the brightest flow'r.  
All people too, like you and me,  
By God's own word we came to be.

Children:       Inside my mother, oh so small,  
God knew me then, He knows us all.  
I'm made by God from head to toe.  
He gave me life and made me grow.

Women:        Life is God's gift to everyone,  
To mother, daughter, father, son.  
The unborn child, the oldest man,  
We're all protected by God's hand.

Men:            Each life must end and when it's done  
The Father's will for everyone  
Is that the truth we all would see  
And live with Him eternally.

All:             I'll share the truth with everyone:  
God loved the world and gave His Son  
To wash away each person's sin.  
Heav'n's gates are open, welcome in!  
--- Lyrics by Timothy Snyder

**Sermon—2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

**Confession of Faith – The Apostles' Creed** p. 41

## Our Offerings Gathered

### Prayers

Pastor: Abiding Savior, we thank and praise You that through faith in Your death and resurrection, we are assured of a heavenly home and our own resurrection. We are confident, therefore, that our death will be a gain and that You will be exalted through it. And so we pray,

**People: In death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Pastor: We thank and praise You that through faith in Your death and resurrection, we are assured of Your presence in our lives right here and now. We are confident, therefore, that our life has meaning and purpose regardless of our circumstances, and that You will be exalted through it. And so we pray,

**People: In life, O Lord, abide with me.**

Pastor: We thank and praise You that whether we live or die we are Yours and that You will be exalted. And so we pray,

**People: In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

Pastor: May Your abiding presence be with those who are facing death. Help them trust in You and Your timing. Help them trust that as long as You give life, You give life meaning and purpose. Remove their fears and give them the joyful and certain hope of eternal life. And so we pray,

**People: O Lord, abide with them.**

Pastor: May Your abiding presence be with those who are facing difficult circumstances. Help them trust in You and Your strength and Your ability to be at work in all things. And so we pray,

**People: O Lord, abide with them.**

Pastor: May Your abiding presence be with those who have made mistakes and wrong choices in life and death issues. Help them trust in Your grace and mercy and assure them of Your rich and daily forgiveness. And so we pray,

**People: O Lord, abide with them.**

Pastor: May Your abiding presence be with Your people that we may be bold in proclaiming the message of Your presence and the difference it can make in the lives of people who are tempted to turn to death as a solution to their problems. And so we pray,

**People: O Lord, abide with us.**

Pastor: May Your abiding presence be with those in this congregation who have special joys or needs. [Special petitions may be offered here.] And so we pray,

**People: O Lord, abide with them.**

Pastor: Be with Christian Life Resources and continue to bless them and use them to equip us to speak truthfully and lovingly on issues of life and death. And so we pray,

**People: O Lord, abide with them.**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray,

### Lord's Prayer

**Blessing****(sung) Amen, Amen, Amen****Closing Hymn: "Life is a Gift from God"***(To the melody of Crown Him with Many Crowns CW 341)*

Life is a gift from God,  
Who ordered all my days  
And wrote them in His Book of Life  
So I could give him praise!  
He guards and still preserves  
That Life He gave to me,  
And loves me with a Father's love  
And will eternally!

Life is a Holy Gift  
Which God alone can give.  
He sets before us death and life  
Choose life that you might live!  
For God has sent His Son  
Who could have come a King,  
But chose a mother's womb instead  
Eternal life to bring.

Lyrics by Rev. John G. Fleischmann

By Pastor Mark C. Kom

Christian Life Resources, January 2006