

Life Sunday #3 - Aging Gracefully

Note on theme of day: *In this third and final service in our series of Life Sundays, we look at the proper attitude toward our aging. As surely as the Lord lives, if we remain here on this earth, our bodies will age. Therefore, let us look to God's Word and find how we may age gracefully, showing God's love in our lives and living out His Will for us here on earth, ever looking forward to our heavenly home.*

Opening Hymn: *Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See* CW 219 OR

Opening Hymn (if Choral Suggestion is used.): *Angels from the Realms of Glory* CW 80

(Stand)

Invocation:

P: In the Name of the Father,

C: **Who gave us life,**

P: And of the Son,

C: **Who won for us new life,**

P: And of the Holy Spirit,

C: **Who made that new life ours through faith.**

C: **Amen** (*sung*)

Confession:

P: Children of God: Our God demands perfection, and we fall far short. God's Word makes it clear that there is nothing in us which deserves anything but punishment for our imperfection. Therefore we have no other option but to fall before our God to ask for His mercy for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

C: **We acknowledge our sins to You, O Lord, and we do not cover up our iniquity. We confess our transgressions to You, O Lord, and You do forgive the guilt of our sins.** (based on Psalm 32:5)

Hymn: *Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above* CW 266

Absolution:

P: God our Father has looked on us in mercy for the sake of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Therefore, as a called 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.

C: **Amen** (*sung*)

Response:

P: Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! (Psalm 32:11)

C: Hymn - *When All Your Mercies, O My God* CW 259 v.1&3

When all your mercies, O my God, My waking soul surveys, Transported with the view, I'm lost In wonder, love, and praise.

Through every passing phase of life Your goodness I'll pursue And after death, in distant worlds, The glorious theme renew.

Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You have given us life, in all its many stages. We praise You for all facets of life, health and sickness, strength and weakness, youth and old age. Grant us a spirit that sees Your goodness in every success and struggle in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen** (*sung*)

(*Be Seated*)

The Word: (*without choir anthem*)

The Psalm of the Day - Psalm 16 CW p. 68

First Lesson - 1 Kings 2:1-4

Response - *Lord of Our Growing Years* CW 507 v. 4

Second Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 4:12-18

Response - *Lord of Our Growing Years* CW 507 v. 5

Gospel - John 11:17-27

Response - *Praise be to You, O Christ* (*Sung*)

The Word: (*with choir anthem is used*)

First Lesson - 1 Kings 2:1-4

The Psalm of the Day - Psalm 16 CW p. 68

Second Lesson - 1 Thessalonians 4:12-18

Choir Anthem - *Lord When Your Glory I Shall See*.*

Gospel - John 11:17-27

Response - *Praise be to You, O Christ* (*Sung*)

Hymn: *O Light of Gentile Nations* CW 78

Sermon

Creed: *We All Believe in One True God* CW 271

Offering

(Stand)

Prayer of the Church:

[This prayer can be prayed responsively with the congregation or the Scripture read by one pastor or reader with the responsive petition read by the pastor conducting the liturgy (preferred). The Scripture readings can be read facing the congregation.]

- P: Our Father in Heaven has given us the privilege of doing His will as reflectors of our Savior's perfection. He has revealed how we can show our thanks to Him in His Word. As we pray, we look at His will and respond with our prayers.
- P: Acts 17:24-25 The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.
- C: **Heavenly Father, You have given all men life and breath and everything else. Forgive us when we forget that and foolishly and futilely attempt to take control of our lives away from You. Give to us the ability to be ever thankful for the gift of life that You have seen fit to give us.**
- P: 1 Corinthians 10:13 And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
- C: **Loving Father, You also have put struggles and obstacles in our lives. Help us to see them as they are, opportunities to show our love for You. Help us also to look to You as the one source of strength that will pull us through every struggle.**
- P: Romans 5:3-5 We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.
- C: **Savior God, You have given us Your Holy Spirit to create and strengthen faith. Grant us the power to see every obstacle in our lives, every ache and pain, every disease and illness - as a gift from You. Help us realize that all those things are working for our ultimate good. And we pray that You continue to give us opportunities to grow in perseverance, character, and hope.**
- P: 1 Peter 2:21-22 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.
- C: **Finally Savior God, We repent for the times when we fail at any of these things. And we rejoice that You saw fit in Your love and mercy, to send us One who could do all these things perfectly. Your Son has lived a perfect life that we may claim His perfect record. Your Son has lived a perfect life that we may use His example to spur us on toward a greater appreciation for Your**

commands and a greater zeal in carrying them out. Thank You, Heavenly Father, for honoring our race by sending Your Son to win forgiveness for all the times we don't show Your love in our lives. Keep us always in him. In His name we also pray...

Lord's Prayer

(If Communion is desired, the service would continue here from page 21 in CW.) (Be Seated)

Hymn: *In Peace and Joy I Now Depart* CW 269

(Stand)

Prayer *(sung): On Christ's Ascension I Now Build* CW 173 v.3

*Oh, grant, dear Lord, this grace to me, Recalling your ascension, That I may serve you faithfully, Adorning your redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease, Let me depart in joy and peace In answer to my pleading. Amen.*

Blessing:

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Depart in peace.

C: **Amen, Amen, Amen.** *(sung)*

Closing Hymn: *Abide with Me* CW 588

*Choral Suggestion: Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See. (Arranged by Carl F. Schalk - Concordia 98-3226)