

Responsive Life Prayer for the Church

(for Epiphany 5)

M: Almighty and eternal God, at the dawn of creation your strong Word split the darkness!
At your speaking, light was born!

C: Alleluia! Praise to you, the Sender of light!

M: And upon those dwelling in darkness the light of your salvation broke out—shone forth—on those living in the shadow of death, you sent your Son, the Light of the World! And again, Light was born!

C: Alleluia! Praise to you, the Sender of Light!

M: It is at your very speaking that all things have come be, including every human life that grows inside a mother. Every life is sent by you!

C: Alleluia! Praise to you, the Sender of life!

M: And in your Sacrament of Baptism you send the light of life to souls in darkness, making them yours through faith in your Son!

C: Alleluia! May the light which you send fill our songs with alleluias—alleluias without end!

M: Lord of light and life, give us eyes to see every soul and every life as one sent into this world by you. Give us hearts to value every life and soul as highly as you value every life and soul.

Open the eyes of all who do not value life as you do: all who embrace the practice of abortion, all who condone doctor-assisted suicide, all who neglect the care of the elderly, all who push medical advancement past moral, ethical, and scriptural bounds.

C: Make us your light, O Lord, so that we speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves to protect the life of the born and the unborn!

M: Almighty and eternal God, you alone know the number of our days. We all suffer in life, sometimes for inexplicable reasons. Be with us in our times of suffering and uphold, as we know you will, your promises of providence.

C: Help us to understand how you use hardships in our lives to draw us closer to yourself and even shine our light in our own darkness.

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.

Special prayers of intercession may follow.

M: We ask this all in the name of Jesus Christ.