



Hands that Knit
Arms that Hold



Sanctity of Life Sunday • Lutherans For Life

Prelude

Opening Hymn “Our Father, by Whose Name” (LSB 863)¹

- 1 Our Father, by whose name All fatherhood is known,
Who dost in love proclaim Each family Thine own,
Bless Thou all parents, guarding well,
With constant love as sentinel,
The homes in which Thy people dwell.
- 2 O Christ, Thyself a child Within an earthly home,
With heart still undefiled, Thou didst to manhood come;
Our children bless in ev’ry place
That they may all behold Thy face,
And knowing Thee may grow in grace.
- 3 O Spirit, who dost bind Our hearts in unity,
Who teachest us to find The love from self set free,
In all our hearts such love increase
That ev’ry home by this release
May be the dwelling place of peace.

Invocation

- Pastor: In the name of the Father,
People: By whose name all fatherhood is known.
Pastor: In the name of the Son,
People: Who Himself became a child.
Pastor: In the name of the Holy Spirit,
People: Who teaches us a selfless love.
All: Amen!

Confession

- Pastor: Children of God, let us draw near with a humble heart and confess our sins to our heavenly Father and ask that, for Jesus’ sake, He would forgive us.
Our help is in the name of the Lord,
People: Who made heaven and earth.
Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,
People: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
Lord God, we confess with David, “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” By nature, we are self-centered. This leads us into all kinds of sins of thought, word, and deed. Our love for

ourselves often gets in the way of our love for others. Father, have mercy upon us. Forgive our selfishness and our lovelessness. Give us a servant's heart so that we might understand true greatness and what it means to welcome a little child.

Pastor: Be of good cheer! Your heavenly Father knit you together in your mother's womb. Jesus' great love for you led Him to sacrifice Himself upon the cross where He paid the price for your sins. He welcomes you into His loving and forgiving arms. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen! Thank you, Father, for welcoming into Your arms those who Your hands knit together in the womb.

Entrance Psalm Psalm 139:13-18

Pastor: For you formed my inward parts;

People: You knitted me together in my mother's womb.

Pastor: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

People: Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

Pastor: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,

People: Intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

Pastor: Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them,

People: The days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Pastor: How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

People: How vast is the sum of them!

Pastor: If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

People: I awake, and I am still with you.

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.

Hymn of Praise "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" vs. 1&3 (LSB 802)²

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, O Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise!

- 3 To all life Thou givest—to both great and small—
In all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree
And wither and perish—but naught changes Thee.

Collect

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord.

Our Father in Heaven, who knit us together in our mothers' wombs, and welcomed us as Your children through the arms of Jesus, send Your Spirit among us so that we might understand the greatness of welcoming a little child; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen!**

Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 14:1-2

You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead. For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading Galatians 4:1-7

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Hymn “What Love the Father Lavished”³

(Tune: From “Greenlands Icy Mountains” or “O Day of Rest and Gladness” LSB 906)

- 1 What love the Father lavished On us to be His own
Beloved sons and daughters, Heirs of His heavenly home.
Predestined by the Father, Adopted by His will,
Redeemed by Christ the Savior, His purpose to fulfill.
- 2 We all were undeserving, In Adam’s sin conceived.
But by our faith in Jesus A new life we received.
For we were lost and homeless And helpless in our sin
Till God Himself through Jesus Reached down and took us in.
- 3 What love the Father lavished On us to be His own;
Not by our works or merit But by His grace alone.
What joy we shall inherit As His, for we shall be
Like Him in resurrection And His own glory see.

Gospel Reading Mark 10:13-16

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Creed

Hymn of the Day “Lord Jesus Christ, the Children’s Friend” (LSB 866)⁴

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| 1 Lord Jesus Christ, the children’s friend,
To each of them Your presence send;
Call them by name and keep them true
In loving faith, dear Lord, to You. | 3 That caring parents, gracious Lord,
And faithful teachers find reward
In leading these, to whom You call,
To find in Christ their all in all. |
| 2 In Christian homes, Lord, let them be
Your blessing to their family;
Let Christian schools Your work extend
In living truth as You intend | 4 For by Your Word we clearly see
That we have sinned continually;
But show us too, forgiving Lord,
Your saving Gospel’s great reward. |

5 That all of us, Your children dear,
By Christ redeemed, may Christ revere;
Lead us in joy that all we do
Will witness to our love for You.

6 Then guard and keep us to the end,
Secure in You, our gracious friend
That in Your heav'nly family,
We sing Your praise eternally.

Sermon

Offering

Prayers

Pastor: Father in heaven, thank You for creating us and knitting us together in our mothers' wombs.

People: We are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Pastor: Thank You for the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and through His loving arms welcoming us as Your children.

People: How marvelous are Your works!

Pastor: When we look upon those not yet born,

People: Help us see them as children who need to be welcomed and brought to the arms of Jesus.

Pastor: When we look upon those struggling with an unplanned pregnancy,

People: Help us see them as "children," welcome them, and be for them the compassionate arms of Jesus.

Pastor: When we are aware of those who are wounded by a past abortion decision,

People: Help us see them as "children," welcome them, and be for them the healing arms of Jesus.

Pastor: We pray for caring pregnancy centers, counselors, pastors, and all those who have opportunity to serve others in difficult situations.

People: Thank you for these people. Strengthen them in their service and help them be the caring arms of Jesus.

Pastor: We pray for Lutherans For Life.

People: May they continue to serve You by equipping us all to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

Pastor: As Your children, we now bring the needs and joys of our congregation before You. (Special intercessions may be offered here.) Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray

People: Our Father ...

(The Communion liturgy may begin at this point according to local custom.)

Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you as His children. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen!

Closing Hymn “Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds” (LSB 867)⁵

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| 1 Let children hear the mighty deeds
Which God performed of old,
Which in our younger days we saw,
And which our parents told. | 4 O teach them with all diligence
The truths of God’s own Word,
To place in Him their confidence,
To fear and trust their Lord. |
| 2 So make to them His glories known,
His works of pow’r and grace;
And we’ll convey His wonder down
Through ev’ry rising race. | 5 To learn that in our God alone
Their hope securely stands,
That they may never doubt His love
But walk in His commands. |
| 3 Our sons and daughters we shall tell
And they again to theirs
That generations yet unborn
May teach them to their heirs. | |

Postlude

(Endnotes)

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