

Created – Redeemed – Called

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

Isaiah 43:1



Sanctity of Life Sunday • Lutherans For Life

Words of Preparation

The value of every human life flows from three simple but profound Scriptural truths: Every human life is created by God. Every human life is someone for whom Jesus died. Every human life is someone God desires to call into an eternal relationship with Him. Created – Redeemed – Called. That is what God has done that gives life value. That is why we value life!

Prelude

Opening Hymn “Breathe My Name”¹

(Tune: Hymn to Joy)

God the Father, You have known me from creation of the earth,
Searched me, Lord, completely knowing of the moment of my birth,
Fashion’d me within my mother, with Your hands You knitted me,
Breathed into my life Your breath a living soul I came to be.

Dearest Jesus, You have known me on the cross of Calvary,
Searched my soul completely saving, breath’d your last in place of me,
Through the water and the Spirit washed away my life of sin,
Crucified together with You, Lord, in me You breathe again.

Holy Spirit, You have known me all my days before they came,
Nowhere can I flee Your presence in the womb You knew my name,
By your power, through Your working, You have breathed my name again
That through faith it shall be written in the book of life, in heav’n.

Invocation

- P** In the name of God the Father,
C **Who creates every life.**
P In the name of God the Son,
C **Who redeemed every life.**
P In the name of God the Holy Spirit,
C **Who desires to call every life.**
P In the name of our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** God tells us to “lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely” (Hebrews 12:1). Sin can weigh so heavily upon us and cling so closely that it seems impossible to lay it aside. Sin can make us feel so faithless. But we depend upon God’s faithfulness, not ours!

He is faithful and just and promises that when we confess our sins, He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Let us then confess our sins to Him.

C **Father, we confess our sinful nature clings closely to us. It manifests itself in so many ways. It causes us to doubt the value of our lives. It causes us to doubt the value of other lives. It causes us to value life for the wrong reasons. It so often makes us indifferent when we see life being devalued all around us. We fail to protect and defend life. We fail to proclaim the great value You give to life. Father, have mercy on us and forgive us for Jesus' sake.**

P God has had mercy upon us! Jesus, "for the joy that was set before him endured the cross" (Hebrews 12:2). The hands of God that created you stretched out in love upon the cross to pay the price for all your sins. Therefore, be assured that God's hand of mercy is upon you, and it is my joy, in the stead and by the command of the risen Jesus, to forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen!**

Entrance Psalm (From Psalm 139)

P Where shall I go from your Spirit?

C **Or where shall I flee from your presence?**

P If I ascend to heaven, you are there!

C **If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!**

P If I take the wings of the morning

C **and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

P Even there your hand shall lead me,

C **And your right hand shall hold me.**

P If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,

C **And the light about me be night,"**

P Even the darkness is not dark to you;

C **The night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.**

P For you formed my inward parts;

C **You knitted me together in my mother's womb.**

P I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

C **Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.**

**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 “The Lord, My God, Be Praised”²
(Tune: *Nun Danket Alle Gott*/Now Thank We All Our God)

The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised. My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father’s own dear Son, Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith The highest heav’n-ly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart And gives my spirit pow’r.
Help, comfort, and support In sorrow’s gloomy hour.

Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit.**

P Let us pray to the Lord.

Heavenly Father, who gives value to every life, give Your people the wisdom to see the value You give to life and the love to reflect that value in our living, through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen!**

Old Testament Reading Genesis 1:26-28 (ESV)

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

A This is the Word of Life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Acts 17:22-31 (ESV)

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

A This is the Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading John 16:12-15 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint John the 16th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Creed

Hymn of the Day “Life is a Gift From God”³ (Tune: *Diademata* / “Crown Him with Many Crowns”)

Life is a gift from God, Who order'd 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.

Life is a Gift of God So Jesus did partake,
And took upon our human form His heirs He did us make!
When we were being knit He knew who we would be
And mark'd us as His very own His Death has set us free!

Proclamation of God's Word of Life

Offering

Prayers

- P** Heavenly Father, we come to You because we are the work of Your hands, and You have asked us to make our requests known to You. Therefore, we confidently say,
- C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Thank You for shaping and forming us and giving us life.
- C** **Thank You for creating us.**
- P** Thank You for loving us in our sinful condition and sending Jesus to be our Savior and giving us new life.
- C** **Thank You for redeeming us.**
- P** Thank You for calling us in Christ to be Your children and assuring us of Your presence.
- C** **Thank You for calling us in Holy Baptism.**
- P** Father, remind us constantly through Your Word that whether we weep or rejoice, succeed or fail, experience good or evil, we belong to You.
- C** **Our value comes from You.**
- P** As we recall our baptisms and receive Your body and blood, renew our faith and assure us of Your faithfulness, Your goodness, and Your forgiveness.
- C** **Our value comes from You.**

- P** Given value by You, use us to value and help those not yet born, those facing difficult situations, those facing death, and those who have made mistakes.
- C** **Help us value and serve others.**
- P** Given value by You, spur our love into action that we might joyfully defend the work of Your hands, provide for those in need, uplift the sorrowing, and demonstrate the acceptance and hope that forgiveness brings.
- C** **Help us value and serve others.**
- P** Given value by You, use us as instruments to renew in Your Church the value You give to life, and then use the influence of Your people to bring an end to those things that attack Your gift of life in our society.
- C** **Help us value and serve others.**
- P** (Special petitions may be added here.) Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. 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.
- C** **Amen!**

Closing Hymn "Lord of Life"⁴

(Tune: *Hyfrydol*/"Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us")

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.

Hymn continues on back page ...

Lord of Life, Who rose in triumph, Conq'ring 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.

Postlude

1. From *For Life! Pro-Life Songs for Classrooms, Choirs & Congregations*. Edited for Lutherans For Life, Frank Morgan, 2000. © Text: Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, 1997, p. 1. Used by permission.
2. Text: Public domain
3. *For Life! Pro-Life Songs for Classrooms, Choirs & Congregations*, p 11. Text: John G. Fleischmann, 1987.
4. *For Life! Pro-Life Songs for Classrooms, Choirs & Congregations*, p.19. Text: Rev. Gerald Scheperle, 1985.

For Life! Pro-Life Songs for Classrooms, Choirs & Congregations, a collection of 18 pro-life songs, is a special order item and a project of LFL of Michigan, and is available for a donation of any size. To order, and to find out more, please call 586.949.9261 or e-mail lfmi@comcast.net.



Lutherans For Life

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