

Here We Stand

“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

(Ephesians 6:13)



Sanctity of Life Sunday • Lutherans For Life

Entrance Hymn: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (LSB 575)¹

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! *Refrain*

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; therefore, repent and live.

C **Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we stand guilty before You. We stand in violation of Your Law, rebellious and disobedient against Your words and ways. We stand under judgment deserving of punishment present and everlasting. We have stood silent and inactive toward sin and Satan. We have stood angry and accusing toward You and each other. We have stood heedless of our neighbors' safety, survival, and salvation. We have stood determining life's worth by what works one has done or cannot do. We have stood dead in trespasses from conception and enslaved by sinfulness unto death. Here we stand in need of Your forgiveness and grace. God help us repent and believe and live by Your Son's incarnation, sacrifice, and arising as our Savior. Amen.**

P Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has come and intercedes that you may have life. His eternal servanthood announces and defends the preciousness of every human being. He has suffered as your substitute, shed His blood for all, risen from the dead, and sent His Spirit to enact and extend the many blessings of abundant and everlasting life. Because of His passion, by His presence, ordained and authorized with His power, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit: Psalm 103:6-17 (See “Singing the Psalms,” page xxvi, LSB.)

The Lord works righteousness*
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
He made known his ways to | Moses,*
his acts to the people of | Israel.
The Lord is merciful and | gracious,*
slow to anger and abounding
in | steadfast love.
He will not | always chide,*
nor will he keep his anger for- | ever.
He does not deal with us according | to
our sins,*
nor repay us according to our
in- | iquities.
For as high as the heavens are a- | bove
the earth,*
so great is his steadfast love toward
those who | fear him;
as far as the east is | from the west,*

so far does he remove
our trans- | gressions from us.
As a father shows compassion to his | children,*
so the Lord shows compassion to
those who | fear him.
For he | knows our frame;*
he remembers that | we are dust.
As for man, his days | are like grass;*
he flourishes like a flower | of the
field;
for the wind passes over it, and | it is
gone,*
and its place knows | it no more.
But the steadfast love of the Lord is
from everlasting to everlasting on those
who | fear him,*
and his righteousness
to children’s | children ...

**☩ Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Kyrie

ℙ Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Hymn of Praise: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (LSB 656)²

A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need That hath us now o’ertaken.
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe; Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight; On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is. Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there’s none other God; He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill, They shall not overpow’r us.
This world’s prince may still Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none, He’s judged; the deed is done; One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life, Goods, fame, child, and wife, Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won; The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Collect

P Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Exodus 14:10-14 – When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 6:10-20 – Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Matthew 7:24-29 – “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Creed

Sermon Hymn: Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You (LSB 668)³

Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you, O Christians, lest the foe destroy you;
For Satan has designed your fall. Wield God's word, the weapon glorious;
Against all foes be thus victorious. For God protects you from them all.
Fear not the hordes of hell, Here is Emmanuel. Hail the Savior!
The strong foes yield To Christ, our shield, And we, the victors, hold the field.

Cast afar this world's vain pleasure And boldly strive for heav'nly treasure.
Be steadfast in the Savior's might. Trust the Lord, who stands beside you,
For Jesus from all harm will hide you. By faith you conquer in the fight.
Take courage, weary soul! Look forward to the goal! Joy awaits you.
The race well run, Your long war won, Your crown shines splendid as the sun.

Wisely fight, for time is fleeting; The hours of grace are fast retreating;
Short, short is this our earthly way. When the Lord the dead will waken
And sinners all by fear are shaken, The saints with joy will greet that day.
Praise God, our triumph's sure. We need not long endure Scorn and trial.
Our Savior King His own will bring To that great glory which we sing.

Sermon

Offering Hymn: We Give Thee But Thine Own (LSB 781)⁴

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.

To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless, Is angels' work below.

The captive to release, To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing.

And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

Prayers

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** For the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that it be proclaimed gladly and clearly and freely in all the world, and that all humankind hear and believe, be forgiven and saved, relieved and released, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the holy Christian Church, that we celebrate the many blessings of abundant and everlasting life; that we declare and defend the precious value of every human being, at every stage, in every state, no matter what she's done, no matter what he can't do; and that we speak truth, share love, listen, assist, accompany, embrace, and befriend, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the cultures and governments of the world, that those to whom our Lord has assigned authority act in accordance with His will that each person, from the invisible miracle of conception to the moment of natural death, has life and has it to the full, and that laws ensure it especially unto the vulnerable, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those guilty of violence against life, that they know the unconditional compassion of Almighty God in His forgiveness even for them, and that they abandon the burdensome ways of sin and selfishness, death and the devil, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those grieving as victims of violence against life, that they receive the healing and hope God works and gives specifically for them in the resurrection of His Son, our Savior Jesus, alongside the whole family of faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For any in need or in danger, especially the unborn and the aged, single mothers and orphans, the terminally ill and the chronically suffering, those with impaired minds and compromised bodies, and all among our number whom we remember by name before God (...), that they receive the power of God in Christ and His presence through His people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all celebrations of life, marriage, parents, and children, (especially [local birthdays and anniversaries]), that by our appreciation of these gifts and privileges of God's grace we may proclaim the goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ to all creation and look forward to the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting in His heavenly kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

The service may continue with the liturgy of the Lord's Supper according to local custom. Suggested distribution hymns: Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness (LSB 563); How Firm a Foundation (LSB 728); Christ Be My Leader (LSB 861).

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

Recessional Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, With Us Abide (LSB 585)⁵

Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, For round us falls the eventide.

O let Your Word, that saving light, Shine forth undimmed into the night.

In these last days of great distress Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That we keep pure till life is spent Your holy Word and Sacrament.

To hope grown dim, to hearts turned cold Speak tongues of fire and make us bold
To shine Your Word of saving grace Into each dark and loveless place.

May glorious truths that we have heard, The bright sword of Your mighty Word,
Spurn Satan that Your Church be strong, Bold, unified in act and song.

Restrain, O Lord, the human pride That seeks to thrust Your truth aside
Or with some man-made thoughts or things Would dim the words Your Spirit sings.

Stay with us, Lord, and keep us true; Preserve our faith our whole life through—
Your Word alone our heart's defense, The Church's glorious confidence.

Postlude

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Lutherans For Life

info@lutheransforlife.org • www.lutheransforlife.org
888.364.LIFE (5433) • Item LFL2017WS