

# Hope For Life

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect ... .” (1 Peter 3:15)



Sanctity of Life Sunday • Lutherans For Life

## Entrance Hymn: Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won (LSB 490)

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won! Death no longer can appall me;  
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done! From the grave will Christ recall me.  
Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne High above all things is given.  
I shall go where He is gone, Live and reign with Him in heaven.  
God is faithful; doubtings, hence! This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died, Hence will I, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide, Praise to Him and glory giving.  
All I need God will dispense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well Nothing me from Him shall sever.  
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ forever.  
God will be my sure defense; This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate of life immortal;  
This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal.  
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution (Psalm 130)

**P** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord! O Lord, hear my voice!

**C** **Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

**P** If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

**P** I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

**C** **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

**C** **O Lord of might and mercy, Who made us to hope for life in You, we confess that we have sought hope in ourselves instead and stolen hope from our neighbors. We have sinned against what You command and against what You create. Our selfishness has closed our hearts, our ears and eyes and hands, to Your Word of truth and love. As we have no hope apart from Your grace, forgive us and redeem us for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**P** O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. Christ Jesus died for your trespasses and rose for your justification. Upon this your confession, and under His authority, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## **Introit: Psalm 65:5; 146:5-9** (See “Singing the Psalms,” page xxvi, LSB.)

- P** By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our sal- | vation,\*  
**C** **the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the | farthest seas;**  
**P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,\*  
**C** **whose hope is in the | Lord his God,**  
**P** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,\*  
**C** **who keeps faith for- | ever;**  
**P** who executes justice for | the oppressed,\*  
**C** **who gives food to the | hungry.**  
**P** The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes | of the blind.\*  
**C** **The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the | righteous.**  
**P** The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the | fatherless,\*  
**C** **but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.**  
**C** **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.**

## **Hymn of Praise: O Christ, Our Hope, Our Hearts’ Desire** (LSB 553)

O Christ, our hope, our hearts’ desire, Creation’s mighty Lord,  
Redeemer of the fallen world, By holy love outpoured:

How vast Your mercy to accept The burden of our sin  
And bow your head in cruel death To make us clean within.

But now the bonds of death are burst, The ransom has been paid;  
You now ascend the Father’s throne In robes of light arrayed.

O let Your mighty love prevail To purge us of our pride  
That we may stand before Your throne By mercy purified.

Christ Jesus, be our present joy, Our future great reward;  
Our only glory, may it be To glory in the Lord!

All praise to You, ascended Lord; All glory ever be  
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Through all eternity!

## **Collect**

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading** (Jeremiah 29:4-14)

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent

you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.

For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading (1 Peter 3:15-22)

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of Acclamation: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come (LSB 350)

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!

Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.

Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!

Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,

That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

## Gospel Reading (Mark 4:1-9, 26-32)

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. And he was teaching

them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Creed

### Sermon Hymn: If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee (LSB 750)

If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in Him through all thy ways,  
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee, And bear thee through the evil days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love Builds on the rock that naught can move.

What can these anxious cares avail thee, These never-ceasing moans and sighs?  
What can it help if thou bewail thee O'er each dark moment as it flies?  
Our cross and trials do but press The heavier for our bitterness.

Be patient and await His leisure In cheerful hope, with heart content  
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure And His discerning love hath sent,  
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.

God knows full well when times of gladness Shall be the needful thing for thee.  
When He has tried thy soul with sadness And from all guile has found thee free,  
He comes to thee all unaware And makes thee own His loving care.

Nor think amid the fiery trial That God hath cast thee off unheard,  
That he whose hopes meet no denial Must surely be of God preferred.  
Time passes and much change doth bring And sets a bound to ev'rything.

All are alike before the Highest; 'Tis easy for our God, we know,  
To raise thee up, though low thou liest, To make the rich man poor and low.  
True wonders still by Him are wrought Who setteth up and brings to naught.

*Hymn continues on next page.*

Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving, Perform thy duties faithfully,  
And trust His Word; though undeserving, Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.  
God never yet forsook in need The soul that trusted Him indeed.

## Sermon

### Offering Hymn: Hope of the World (LSB 690)

Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great compassion; Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.  
Save us, Thy people, from consuming passion, Who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven, Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life,  
Still let Thy Spirit unto us be given To heal earth's wounds and end our bitter strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways, Showing to wand'ring souls the path of light,  
Walk Thou beside us lest the tempting byways Lure us away from Thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us From death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,  
We render back the love Thy mercy gave us; Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.

Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious, Who by this sign didst conquer grief and pain,  
We would be faithful to Thy Gospel glorious. Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!

## 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 holy Christian Church gathered here and scattered throughout the world, that in the face of sinfulness and suffering, we find our entire life and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that our ministry and witness steadfastly hold forth this Gospel of forgiveness and salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this land, that its leaders and laws resist temptations to allow or employ death as a solution, but instead, as instruments of the Almighty Maker, they respect and protect the hope and preciousness intrinsic to every human being, particularly those endangered by abortion, assisted suicide, and other such satanic deceptions, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our communities and schools, that by God's guidance they pursue truth rather than public approval, civil discourse rather than demands, and the common good rather than convenience, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For marriages and homes, parents and children, that they remain refuges of hope for one another, embodying and mediating the same acceptance and servanthood the Heavenly Father has bestowed in establishing these blessed vocations for us, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those burdened under distress and despair, including all who mourn sins against life, that our Redeemer raise their eyes to receive peace in God's forgiveness and cradle their hearts until Christ's compassion heals them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those dealing with diseases, disabilities, or dying, (especially [names] from among our number,) that our Savior’s grace grants them relief and recovery in His time and according to His will, and that He strengthens them with the promise of bodily resurrection and sustains them in the hope of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those rejoicing in God’s rich life-giving, (namely [local birthdays, recuperations, celebrations, and anniversaries],) that we mark these occasions as tokens of a fuller hope in the new creation and we hail them as foretastes of our even greater inheritance in Christ Jesus, 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: Chief of Sinners Though I Be (LSB 611), We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight (LSB 720), I Walk in Danger All the Way (LSB 716).*

## 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: When Peace, like a River (LSB 763)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain:*

It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

He lives— oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

### Postlude

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## **Lutherans For Life**

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