

# FROM AGE TO AGE THE SAME

You “have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” (Isaiah 46:3b-4)



Sanctity of Life Sunday • Lutherans For Life

## Entrance Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell (LSB 791)

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make.  
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise; Approach with joy His courts unto.  
Praise, laud, and bless His name always, For it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good: His mercy is forever sure.  
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.

△ To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, The God whom heav'n and earth adore,  
From us and from the angel host Be praise and glory evermore.

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, on your sons and your daughters, your young men and old, even on My male servants and My female servants. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.†

**C** **Merciful Father and Maker of all, we confess that from youth until our last breath every intention of our hearts is evil. In sinfulness we were conceived, and apart from You we can do no good thing. We have turned aside from Your Word and Your grace to worship our own desires instead. We have not respected life as Your gift or treated our neighbors as treasures. We deserve the death we have brought upon ourselves. In Your steadfast compassion, forgive our iniquity. Remember us as those for whom Your dear Son Jesus atoned. Bring forth in us repentance and trust that Your humble creatures may be saved, according to the favor of Your name. Amen.**

**P** I the Lord do not change, says our God. Therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. He has given Himself in His Son Jesus, Who became incarnate and was crucified, that in His resurrection all humankind would be redeemed. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Introit: Psalm 90:1-4, 12-17 (See "Singing the Psalms," page xxvi, LSB.)

**P** Lord, you have been our | dwelling place\*

**C** **in all gener- | ations.**

**P** Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth | and the world,\*

**C** **from everlasting to everlasting | you are God.**

**P** You return | man to dust\*

**C** **and say, "Return, O chil- | dren of man!"**

**P** For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when | it is past,\*  
**C** or as a watch | in the night.  
**P** So teach us to number | our days\*  
**C** that we may get a heart of | wisdom.  
**P** Return, O Lord! | How long?\*
**C** Have pity on your | servants!  
**P** Satisfy us in the morning with your | steadfast love,\*  
**C** that we may rejoice and be glad | all our days.  
**P** Make us glad for as many days as you have af- | flicted us,\*  
**C** and for as many years as we have seen | evil.  
**P** Let your work be shown to your | servants,\*  
**C** and your glorious power to their | children.  
**P** Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands up- | on us;\*  
**C** yes, establish the work | of our hands.  
**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

*The HYMN OF PRAISE or KYRIE and GLORIA IN EXCELSIS appropriate to the locally familiar liturgy may be sung.*

## Collect

**P** Gracious God, our Heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation, 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 (Isaiah 46:3-4, 8-10)

“Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save. Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.’”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading (James 1:17-27)

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Alleluia and Verse

*The ALLELUIA and VERSE appropriate to the locally familiar liturgy may be sung.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

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

## Gospel Reading (John 1:1-5, 9-14)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

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

## Creed

## Sermon Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past (LSB 733)

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

## Sermon

### Offering Hymn: O Word of God Incarnate (LSB 523)

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:  
We praise You for the radiance That from the hallowed page,  
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.

The Church from You, dear Master, Received the gift divine;  
And still that light is lifted O'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass That, all life's voyage through,  
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands Still guides, O Christ, to You.

O make Your Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold  
To bear before the nations Your true light as of old!  
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace  
Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see You face to face!

## Prayers

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

**P** For all the children of God, born into His own household by baptismal grace to share in His Son's inheritance, that we may rejoice to speak His truth and delight to show His love, until every human being has life and has it to the full, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For women with child and the little ones they carry, for newborns and infants, that our Maker and Father lends us His courage, to protect them from every danger, and His compassion, to provide for all their needs, while gathering them into His family, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who grieve pregnancy loss or struggle under infertility, that our Savior comforts them with the peace of His forgiving care and the promise of resurrection and reward, and that the body of Christ shares their sorrows and their joys, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For children awaiting adoption, and for little ones held in laboratories or scheduled for abortion, that Almighty God spares their lives, and that the Holy Spirit moves us to open our ears and our mouths, our hearts and hands and homes, to embrace them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For parents and other authorities, that in our homes and communities they gently and relentlessly safeguard the sacredness with which our Creator has invested every human life, and that they uphold especially the least of these even as He enfolds each of us in His grace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the aged and the infirm (especially...), for the abandoned and the bereaved (especially...), and for those beset with the guilt of taking part in ending life, that our Lord delivers them out of their sufferings and heals them with forgiveness for their sins and everlasting restoration for their bodies, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those celebrating the blessings of abundant life, including birthdays (especially...) and anniversaries (especially...), we give thanks and praise with them to God Who has affirmed how precious they are by granting length of days and rich mercies, and that together we commit ourselves evermore into His goodness, 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: Just As I Am, without One Plea (LSB 570); Once in Royal David's City (LSB 376); Father Welcomes (LSB 605).*

## 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: Abide with Me (LSB 878)

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour; What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings, But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea. Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

### Postlude



△ The congregation is encouraged to stand in honor of the Triune God.

†Acts 2:17, 21

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