

“Did God Really Say ...?”

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)



Sanctity of Life Sunday • Lutherans For Life

Opening Hymn: Word of God, Come Down on Earth (LSB 545)

Word of God, come down on earth, Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You; Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die, Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring, Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

Word that caused blind eyes to see, Speak and heal our mortal blindness;
Deaf we are: our healer be; Loose our tongues to tell Your kindness.
Be our Word in pity spoken, Heal the world, by sin now broken.

Word that speaks God's tender love, One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above, God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man,

C to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.

P They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt;

C there is none who does good, not even one.

Psalm 14:2-3

P The wicked are estranged from the womb;

C they go astray from birth, speaking lies.

Psalm 58:3

P Against you, you only, have I sinned

C and done what is evil in your sight.

P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

C and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psalm 51:4a, 5

P What is man that you are mindful of him,

C and the son of man that you care for him?

Psalm 8:4

P For we are brought to an end by your anger;

C and all our days pass away under your wrath.

Psalm 90:7a, 9a

P Yet you are he who took me from the womb;

C on you was I cast from my birth.

Psalm 22:9a, 10a

P Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies

C you have prepared praise.

Psalm 8:2a

P O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

P I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

C and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5b

P The Lord is a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. In His great compassion, He atoned for our iniquity and did not destroy us. He has delivered His Son into death for your trespasses and raised Him from the grave for your justification. In the stead and by the command of this Lord Jesus Christ, 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 119:105-112 (See “Singing the Psalms,” page xxvi, LSB.)

P Your word is a lamp | to my feet*

C and a light | to my path.

P I have sworn an oath and con- | firmed it,*

C to keep your just and righ- | teous decrees.

P I am severely af- | flicted;*

C give me life, O LORD, according | to your word!

P Accept my freewill offerings of praise, | O LORD,*

C and teach me your | just decrees.

P I hold my life in my hand con- | tinually,*

C but I do not for- | get your law.

P The wicked have laid a | snare for me,*

C but I do not stray from your | precepts.

P Your testimonies are my heritage for- | ever,*

C for they are the joy | of my heart.

P I incline my heart to perform your | statutes*

C forever, | to the end.

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: Christ Be My Leader (LSB 861)

Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.

Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth, Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.

Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand, Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife; Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.

Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Collect

P Almighty God, Whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Readings

Genesis 3:1-15 – Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

2 Timothy 3:16-4:5 – All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

John 6:63-69 – [Jesus said:] “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Creed

Sermon Hymn: Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens (LSB 589)

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You And to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You, Let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at Your Word;
But to all who feel sin's burden You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; On Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

Sermon

Offering Hymn: You Are the Way; through You Alone (LSB 526)

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

Prayers

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Almighty Maker, You have pronounced humankind very good, created in Your own image and knit together even in the womb. Let us receive every life as Your gift and safeguard especially those threatened by abortion, assisted suicide, and embryo experiments. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Incarnate Savior, You have declared the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, taking our nature and making Yourself like us in every respect except without sin. Open our mouths to speak the sanctity of life with courage and show it with compassion. Open our ears to share the sorrows of those who grieve pregnancy loss or struggle under infertility. And open our hands to serve mothers with child and little ones awaiting adoption. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Everlasting God, You have decreed You have no pleasure in anyone's death and You desire all men to be saved. Bring us to contrition and repentance for dismissing Your Word and despising the least of these. Forgive and reform also those who persecute us and ridicule the unborn and the aged that we may embrace them as brothers and sisters. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, You have proclaimed apart from You we can do nothing and You work in us bearing much fruit. Bless especially birthdays and anniversaries among us (including...) as witnesses to Your power made perfect in weakness. Abide with emergency and military personnel (including...) delivering Your peace and protection to the vulnerable. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Good Shepherd, You have promised Your body and blood provide propitiation for the whole world's sin, once and for all. By Your merciful absolution work relief and healing, hope and comfort in consciences broken by the guilt of violence against life. Silence Satan's accusations with the assurance of Your atonement for every sin and every person. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Great Redeemer, You have instructed that You appoint authorities to approve good and avenge evil. Bless our land with leaders and laws that ensure safety, freedom, and fairness for persons great and small. Grant us insight, energy, and opportunity to take part in civic affairs for Your glory and the good of our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Gracious Lord, You have directed that our bodies and lives belong not to us but to You, having bought them for Your own. Preserve those suffering illnesses and injuries (including...) and bestow upon them recovery. Draw near to the bereaved (including...) with the guarantee of resurrection in the body and reunion in the new creation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- 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: The Tree of Life (LSB 561); Jesus Loves Me (LSB 588); Seek Ye First (LSB 712).

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: Thy Strong Word (LSB 578)

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

△ God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

Postlude

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

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