

Life Sunday #2 - Family Matters

Note on theme of day: *Building on last week's theme of revering God by respecting the elderly, today we focus on how that plays out in our lives. God has given us the ability and responsibility and privilege to care for those elderly saints through whom He has blessed us. May it be our prayer today that God give us grace and power to show the aged respect by caring for their needs.*

Opening Hymn: *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

CW 486

(Stand)

Invocation:

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen** (sung)

Confession:

P: Children of God: Our God demands perfection, and we fall far short. God's Word makes it clear that there is nothing in us which deserves anything but punishment for our imperfection. Therefore we have no other option but to fall before our God to ask for His mercy for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.

C: **We acknowledge our sins to You, O Lord, and we do not cover up our iniquity. We confess our transgressions to You, O Lord, and You do forgive the guilt of our sins.**

(Based on Psalm 32:5)

Hymn: *Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above*

CW 266

Absolution:

P: God our Father has looked on us in mercy for the sake of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen** (sung)

Response:

P: Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! (Psalm 32:11)

C: Hymn - *How Great Thou Art* CW 256 v. 3 & Refrain

**And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.**

**Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, How great thou art!
How great thou art! Then sings my soul, me Savior God to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You have given us great blessings in the people You have appointed to care for us and in those for whom You give us the opportunity to care. Let us always realize these blessings and show to others the love You have shown to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen** (sung)

(Be Seated)

The Word:

_____ **The Psalm of the Day** - Psalm 25 CW p. 74

First Lesson - 2 Samuel 4:4, 9:6-13

Response - *Take My Life and Let it Be* CW 469 v. 1

Second Lesson - Philippians 2:1-5

Response - *Take My Life and Let it Be* CW 469 v. 6

(Stand)

Gospel - Matthew 25:31-46

Response - *Praise be to You, O Christ (Sung)*

Hymn: *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* CW 494

Sermon

Creed: *We All Believe in One True God* CW 271

Offering

(Stand)

Prayer of the Church:

[This prayer can be prayed responsively with the congregation or the Scripture read by one pastor or reader with the responsive petition read by the pastor conducting the liturgy (preferred). The Scripture readings can be read facing the congregation.]

- P: Our Father in Heaven has given us the privilege of doing His Will as reflectors of our Savior's perfection. He has revealed how we can show our thanks to Him in His Word. As we pray, we look at His will and respond with our prayers.
- P: Hebrews 13:1&3 Keep on loving each other as brothers....Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.
- C: **Heavenly Father, You have blessed us with those who help us in time of need. And You ask that we help others in their need. Give to us the courage to love the seemingly unlovable. Give to us the strength to care for those who need it most. Give us the patience to show Your patient love to all who are suffering as though that suffering were also ours to bear. In so doing, let us be strength for those who are weak.**
- P: I Timothy 5:4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.
- C: **Loving Father, You also have given us families to care for us and for whom we care. We thank You for them. Help us always to heed Your command and take care of and support our family members in all of their needs. Keep us ever grateful to You for them and let us live so as to show that thanksgiving in our lives.**
- P: I Peter 2:21-22 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.
- C: **Finally, Savior God, we repent for the times when we fail at any of these things. And we rejoice that You saw fit in Your love and mercy, to send us One who could do all these things perfectly. Your Son has lived a perfect life that we may claim His perfect record. Your Son has lived a**

perfect life that we may use His example to spur us on toward a greater appreciation for Your commands and a greater zeal in carrying them out. Thank You, Heavenly Father, for honoring our race by sending Your Son to win forgiveness for all the times we don't show Your love in our lives. Keep us always in Him. In His name we also pray...

Lord's Prayer

(If Communion is desired, the service would continue here from page 21 in CW.)

(Be Seated)

Hymn: *Son of God, Eternal Savior*

CW 492

(Stand)

Prayer

P: Lord, make us instruments of Your peace:
where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.

We ask all this in the name of our Savior who did what we could not so that we are what we were not.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing:

P: May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us, and upon our work and worship:
His light to guide us;
His presence to strengthen us;
His love to unite us, now and always.

C: **Amen** *(sung)*

Closing Hymn: *May the Grace of Christ Our Savior*

CW 326