

Life Sunday #1 - Respect your Elders

Note on theme of day: *In all we do, it is our goal to give glory to God by obeying His Word. Today we focus on one aspect of His will - Respect. In a world where so often youth is valued more than the experience of old age and where the elderly are often mistreated and made to feel useless - God's Word today points us back to a proper appreciation for all the blessings God gives us through His aging saints. We see today how we can revere God by respecting the elderly.*

Opening Hymn: *Father, Let Me Dedicate*

CW 75

(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: *Gloria Be to God in Heaven* CW Hymn 264 v. 1&2

Prayer:

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Bless our lives that we may show our awe and love for You in our attitude toward Your gift of life. Grant that we continually respect that gift of life You have given us, in all its stages. We ask this in the name of 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 71

CW p. 92

First Lesson - 2 Samuel 19:31-37

Response - *Take My Life and Let it Be*

CW 469 v. 1

Second Lesson - Titus 2:1-5

Response - *Take My Life and Let it Be*

CW 469 v. 5

(Stand)

Gospel - Luke 2:25-38

Response - *Take My Life and Let it Be*

CW 469 v.6

Apostles' Creed

Hymn: *I Will Sing My Maker's Praises*

CW 253

Sermon

Nunc Dimittis: In peace, Lord, You let your servant now depart according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared for every people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.

Offering

(Stand)

Prayer of the Church:

[This prayer can be prayed responsively by the pastor and congregation or the Scripture can be 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: *(to the congregation)* 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: I Thessalonians 5:12-13 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.
- C: **Heavenly Father, You have given us Your servants to be over us in Your name. Bless their work and help us always to serve You by respecting and honoring them. Help us to keep them in our prayers and do all we can to show our love for You to them.**
- 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, not just physically, but also with our love and honor. Keep us ever grateful to You for them and let us live so as to show that thanksgiving in our lives.**
- P: Proverbs 23:22 Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.
- C: **Especially LORD God, in Your infinite wisdom, You have given us fathers and mothers to bring us up in Your Word, to nourish us body and soul. Bless our relationship with our parents that we may always give them the respect they deserve. Let us never look down on them if their faculties begin to fade. Let us never look down on anyone suffering some of the ravages that age often brings. Rather, let us uphold the aged in their suffering with our care and with our prayers.**
- P: Leviticus 19:32 Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD.

C: Dear LORD - Help us always to revere Your Name by respecting those You have commanded us to respect. You have given us great blessings through their years of experience and learning. Grant that we live to appreciate those gifts to the fullest and always respect those to whom You have given the gift of many years on this earth.

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 honor Your gifts. Keep us always in Him. In His name we also pray...

Lord's Prayer

(Be Seated)

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

Hymn: *May the Mind of Christ My Savior*

CW 467

(Stand)

Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Closing Hymn: *I Pray You, Dear Lord Jesus*

CW 510