

ST. JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

THE OPENING HYMN: Hymn 18

THE INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father
C: Who gave us our life through His almighty power,
P: And in the name of the Son
C: Who redeemed our life with His precious blood,
P: And in the name of the Holy Spirit
C: Who gave us eternal life through faith in Christ Jesus.
ALL SING: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow:
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS (Psalm 51:1-12)

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
C: According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
P: Wash away all my iniquity
C: And cleanse me from my sin.
P: For I know my transgressions
C: And my sin is always before me.
P: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
C: So that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.
P: Surely I have been a sinner from birth,
C: Sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
P: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
C: You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
P: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean
C: Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
P: Let me hear joy and gladness;
C: Let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
P: Hide your face from my sins
C: And blot out all my iniquity.
P: Create in me a pure heart, O God,
C: And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
P: Do not cast me from your presence
C: Or take your Holy Spirit from me.
P: Restore to me the joy of your salvation
C: And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

THE ABSOLUTION:

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore as a called servant of the Word and by the command of the Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Congregation sings: Amen

THE HYMN OF PRAISE: Hymn 360

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 139 : 13-18

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25 : 34-36

THE APOSTLES' CREED: Pastor and Congregation

THE SERMON HYMN: (sung to the tune of hymn 346)

Lord, You saw me before my birth.
Your Spirit gave my life to me
I praise You for Your deep concern
Your skill was wrought most wondrously.

You formed me in Your image, Lord,
Creation of such priceless worth.
No price on earth could e'er afford,
Or be affixed before my birth.

But life is cheapened in our land,
And millions die before their birth.
Ignoring Scriptures clear command,
Our nation grants to life no worth.

Yes, still we see your glory spurned,
You patience tested every day.
Teach us to share the things we've learned,
And for ourselves and our land pray. Amen.

THE SERMON: Exodus 20:8 THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

THE OFFERTORY: Create in me a clean heart, etc.

THE COLLECTION OF THANKOFFERINGS

THE PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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