

Sanctity of Life Sunday

MEDITATION before service: Psalm 139. What a comfort it is to know that God is always with us and knows everything about us even when we were in our mother's womb!

INVOCATION:

Pastor: We come into the presence of our God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **We praise you because we are fearfully and wonderfully made!**

OPENING HYMN: #260 "Let All Things Now Living"

CONFESSION:

Our good and loving Father in heaven was pleased to create us in His image. He breathed life into each one of us, and saw that what He had created was good.

But sin enticed us away from our perfection. And we confess, dear Heavenly Father, that we sin against you. We sin against your gift of life by abusing our bodies and minds, by taking our gift of life for granted, and by mistreating others. We are often prideful, unkind to others, quick to criticize them, and even quicker to accuse. We display far too often our human sinfulness.

But God sent His very own Son Jesus Christ to pay for all of those sins. Through his perfect life and innocent death, he restored our relationship with God and made sure that never would His children be separated from Him by sin. We plead the blood of our Savior and Redeemer, and claim His promise of forgiveness for all of our sins. Jesus has truly freed us from sin, and has given us his righteousness.

We ask and trust the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with the strength to live according to His will. We beg that He open our eyes to the opportunities that He sets before us to give glory to God, and pray that He prompt us to serve those who do not yet know His wondrous love.

HYMN: #440 On Eagles Wings

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE...SCRIPTURE CHORUS

ALL: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!

Men: The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. [Genesis 2:7]

ALL: For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. [Psalm 139:13-16]

Women: A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

Children: Her children arise and call her blessed;

Men: her husband also, and he praises her: "Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. [Proverbs 31:10...]

ALL: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!

Men: In him was life, and that life was the light of men. [John 1:4]

Children: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." [Matthew 19:14]

Men: "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. [Mark 10:15,16]

Women: At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure." [Matthew 11:25]

ALL: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!

Women: Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit; You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. [I Corinthians 6:19,20]

Children: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. [Ephesians 2:10]

ALL: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!

Women: The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?" [Matthew 21:14-16]

Children: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; [Psalm 113:7]

Men: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. [Proverbs 31:8]

ALL: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!

Men: Simeon...was waiting for the consolation of Israel...It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God...

Women: There was also a prophetess, Anna...She was very old. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. [Luke 2:25-38]

Children: Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. [Revelation 2:10]

ALL: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!

PSALM: #111 (Christian Worship, p. 106)

CONFESSION OF FAITH

[Speak in unison the verses of Hymn #271 --- "*We All Believe in One True God*"]

Vs. 1: pulpit side of sanctuary, Vs. 2: lectern side of sanctuary, Vs. 3: all

SERMON HYMN: #492 *Son of God, Eternal Savior*

Sermon Text: Psalm 139:13-16

Sermon Theme: *Our Significance is Found in Our Creator*

- I. *He gave us our bodies*
- II. *He gave us our lives*
- III. *He gave us salvation*

OFFERING GATHERED and Friendship Register Signed

TRIO *Life is for Eternity* or,

DUET *Jesus Loves the Whole Wide World Life Medley*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER (Christian Worship, p. 32)

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION (Christian Worship, p. 33)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: #496 *Glorious in Majesty*
#498 *Though I May Speak*
#497 *This is my Will*

CLOSING PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: #490

[5/9/99 - Eastside Lutheran Church, Madison, WI, reprinted with permission]