



SANCTITY OF LIFE SUNDAY

JANUARY 23, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040

Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org

Director of Music Ruth Sievers

God Chose You... and That Changes Everything!

It is Life Sunday across our nation, as Christians everywhere reflect on the sanctity of life. Our focus today is on the clear evidence that God has given great value to every life, in this world and for eternity. And He's proven that, both in our creation and in the salvation that Jesus Christ has won for us all!

"You are not and never have been simply a number, a blob of tissue, or an invisible nobody. Rather, you are now and always have been God's handcrafted gift to the world."
Michelle Bauman, director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life

Prelude

"Prelude in G"

D. Buxtehude

Opening Hymn

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

#909

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever
And our confidence alone.</p> <p>2 To this temple, where we call You,
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all Your loving-kindness,
Hear Your people as they pray;
And Your fullest benediction
Shed within these walls today.</p> | <p>3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful
All the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from You, forever
With the blessed to retain;
And hereafter in Your glory
Evermore with You to reign.</p> <p>△ 4 Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one:
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run!</p> |
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Invocation

- P** In the name of God the Father,
C **Who creates every life.**
P In the name of God the Son,
C **Who has redeemed every life.**
P In the name of God the Holy Spirit,
C **Who calls every life to be children of God.**
P In the name of our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; therefore, repent and live.

We pause to remember and repent of our sins before Almighty God

- P** Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we stand guilty before You.
C **We stand in violation of Your Law, rebellious and disobedient against Your words and ways.**
P We stand under judgment, deserving of Your present and eternal punishment.

C We have stood silent and inactive toward sin and Satan. We have stood angry and accusing toward You and each other. We have stood heedless of our neighbors' safety, survival, and salvation.

P We have stood determining life's worth by what one has done or is unable to do. We have stood dead in our trespasses from conception and enslaved by our sin unto death.

C Here we stand in need of Your forgiveness and grace. God help us repent and believe and live by Your Son's life, death, and resurrection as our Savior. Amen.

P Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has come and intercedes that you may have life. His eternal servanthood proclaims and defends the value of every human being. He has suffered as your substitute, shed His blood for you, risen from the dead, and sent His Spirit so that we may know and receive the many blessings of abundant and everlasting life. As a called and ordained 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.

✠ WORD ✠

Psalm

Psalm 139:1-2, 7-16; antiphon: v. 1

P O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

C You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
You discern my thoughts from afar.

P Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

C If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

P If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

C even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

P For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

C I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

P My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance;

C in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

C As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Heavenly Father, before the foundation of the world, You chose us in Christ to be Your sons and daughters. Grant us to behold every human life as created, redeemed, and called to be Your precious treasures, that we receive each neighbor as a gift and privilege with whom we may rejoice as brothers and sisters in Your everlasting kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

✠ The Servant of the Lord ✠

Isaiah 49:1–7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. ²He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³And he said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” ⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.” ⁵And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him— for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength— ⁶he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” ⁷Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise Solo

“How Precious Is the Book Divine”

LW Hymnal #332

Epistle

✠ God Chose What is Weak ✠

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

✠ I Chose You ✠

John 15:12–17

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came
down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the
virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius
Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according
to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge
both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn

“Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee”

#573

1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee;
That, I know, could never be;
For this heart would still refuse Thee
Had Thy grace not chosen me.
Thou hast from the sin that stained me
Washed and cleansed and set me free
And unto this end ordained me,
That I ever live to Thee.
2 It was grace in Christ that called me,
Taught my darkened heart and mind;
Else the world had yet enthralled me,
To Thy heav'nly glories blind.
Now I worship none above Thee;

△ 3 Praise the God of all creation;
Praise the Father's boundless love.
Praise the Lamb, our expiation,
Priest and King enthroned above.
Praise the Spirit of salvation,
Him by whom our spirits live.
Undivided adoration
To the great Jehovah give.

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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

The Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven...

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

"Once He Came in Blessing"

#333

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Once He came in blessing,
All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us;
Hope and freedom gave us.</p> <p>2 Now He gently leads us;
With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven,
Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish
Souls that they may flourish.</p> | <p>3 Soon will come that hour
When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor
And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing
Joy beyond comparing.</p> <p>4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing,
That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.</p> |
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“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

#611 sts. 1-4

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine. | 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv’n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav’n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod. |
| 2 Oh, the height of Jesus’ love,
Higher than the heav’ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not. | 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife. |

Text: Public domain

Communion Blessing

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Closing Hymn

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

#922

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Go, My children, with My blessing,
Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own.
In My love’s baptismal river
I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
You are My own. | 3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free.
Here My Spirit’s power filled you;
Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free. |
| 2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure.
Here you heard My dear Son’s story;
Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
At peace and pure. | 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace:
I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
And give you peace. |

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Postlude

“Postlude in F”

J. Kindermann



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalist: Stan Wirtschoreck

Lector: Marilyn Bitner

Altar Care: Martha Moeller

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ITEMS NEEDED MOST BY THE
SOUTHSIDE PREGNANCY CENTER

- Diapers size 4, 5 & 6
- Wipes (running extremely low)
- Enfamil Gentlease Formula (purple can)
- Baby clothes boy & girl (12 months & up)
- Toddler clothes & shoes
(All toddler sizes boy & girl up to 4T - running low)
- Baby Wash
(Johnson & Johnson, Aveeno, Hello Bello, Dove, etc.)
- Baby Lotion
- Diaper Rash Cream
- Bottles (Avent, Mam, Nuk, Parent's Choice)

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family:

Betty Kruckow	Cathy Gleason
Sue & John Lilja	Helen Bonder
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Laverne Abraham
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
Jane & Freddie Giacobbe	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Lori Freeze
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Patty Sellers	Janet Varnagis
Dawn McNicholas	Julie & Larry Gurga

Shirley Fairchild, Martha Moeller's stepmother

We pray for those who grieve:

For Sandy Barry and the Dan Ball family on the death of his son, David, called from this life on Jan. 16th

Announcements & Notes:

- **Contribution Statements** and Offering envelopes can be picked up in the narthex.
- Mr. Chris Donnelly of Southside Pregnancy Center is our guest today for our Adult Bible Class, after worship in the Timothy Room. Grab a cup of coffee and a pre-packaged goodie and join us.
- Our Board of Evangelism / Parish Ed is partnering with the Southside Pregnancy Center and are collecting diapers, wipes, and any new or gently used baby items to help their ministry. The campaign begins today and runs through February 20th.
- A list of items needed is on the inside back cover of this bulletin. Monetary gifts are also appreciated.
-

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Andrew Mrochen	Vern Howe
Eugene Marcinkowski	Roberta & Carlos Owens
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Anthony Krcelic, Jr.	Eric Kessling
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Michelle Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessling
Elizabeth Hoefler	Alan Iversen
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Selma & John Carmichael	Allyson Seehofer
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Carl Hoppe
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Donna Santi	Judy Collins
Paul Sowa	Maryann Krieg (Wilke)
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Knox Christensen
Cathy Becker	Lois Kiefer
Al Zirbel	Heather & Josh Turro
Donna Patri	Skip Sorensen
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Logan Bliss	Debbie Guarascio
Phyllis Hicks	Sue Dever
LaNell Koenig	Justin & Ashley Fasel
Nora Maculitis	Sandra Mitchell & Fam.
Beckham Klintworth	Sophia Salus
Kimberly Rooney	Barb & Emily Feehan
Gina Arns	Guillermo Ramirez
Simeon Hoppe	The Carl Hoppe Fam.
Frank Coglina	Rev. Matthew Gunia
Katherine Zeleny	Gene Wawrzynikowski
The Dan Ball Family	

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040.