

Sanctity of Human Life

For you
were
bought
with a

PRICE;

therefore
glorify
God
in
your
body.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:20, NRSV

ORDER OF THE DIVINE SERVICE
SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 17, 2021 - 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, Resurrection Lutheran Church celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

There is much for which we and our society need to repent: senseless war, destruction of the environment, wasting God's precious resources, the gluttony of some in the midst of another's hunger, the wealth of some in the midst of another's poverty, not to mention bigotry, selfishness, greed, and many other sins against our fellow human beings. This lack of respect for human life is among the many things for which Jesus issued a call to repentance. Those who heeded the message found grace and forgiveness from a God Who wants all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth, Jesus Christ.

"You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." (1 Corinthians 6:19b, 20) The prophet Samuel was given to God by his parents as a child, and the disciple Philip brought his brother Nathanael to the Lord. We have been given faith to see Jesus as the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit uses our bodies as His temple.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

Sanctify Us By Thy Goodness from Cantata No. 22 – J. S. Bach

GREETING

❖ **INVOCATION**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

❖ **SONG**

How High and How Wide

**1. No eye has seen and no ear has heard, and no mind has ever conceived
the glorious things that You have prepared for ev'ryone who has believed;
You brought us near and You called us Your own, and made us joint heirs with Your Son:**

Refrain

**How high and how wide, how deep and how long,
how sweet and how strong is Your love?
How lavish Your grace, how faithful Your ways;
How great is Your love, O Lord?**

**2. Objects of mercy who should have known wrath, we're filled with unspeakable joy;
Riches of wisdom, unsearchable wealth, and the wonder of knowing Your voice;
You are our treasure and our great reward, our hope and our glorious King:**

Refrain

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❖ **PSALM**

Psalms 139:1-10

(Search me, O God, and know my heart.)

P You have searched me, LORD,
C and You know me.

P You know when I sit and when I rise;
C You perceive my thoughts from afar.

P You discern my going out and my lying down;
C You are familiar with all my ways.

P Before a word is on my tongue
C You, LORD, know it completely.

P You hem me in behind and before,
C and You lay Your Hand upon me.

P Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
C **too lofty for me to attain.**

P Where can I go from Your Spirit?
C **Where can I flee from Your Presence?**

P If I go up to the heavens, You are there;
C **if I make my bed in the depths, You are there.**

P If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
C **if I settle on the far side of the sea,**

P even there Your Hand will guide me,
C **Your Right Hand will hold me fast.**
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

❖ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P Because our thoughts and words, and the actions flowing from them, have been impure and marred by sin, we confess our faults and failings.
C **Almighty God, we confess that we have thought, spoken, and acted as if You were absent and distant from us. Forgive us for failing to believe in Your abiding and constant Love. Forgive us for our impertinence, selfishness, and disregard for all of Your creation. Renew in us clean hearts, faithful intentions, caring hands, and determined feet so that we may be true followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, in Whose name we pray.**

P St. Paul was inspired to write, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." (*1 Corinthians 6:19c-20*) Because you have been redeemed by Christ our Savior, our Heavenly Father considers your sins paid in full.
As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the Grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins; in the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
May the Lord, Who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

❖ **KYRIE**

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for the salvation won by the Lamb of God, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all who have had the light of the Gospel shine on them, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who respond to the Call of God, offering here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, Gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

❖ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You have been our Creator from the moment of conception, shaping our bodies in flesh and bone, formulating our minds in wisdom and strength, and redeeming our souls with Your Holy and precious Word.

C **Remove from our hearts grievous faults, and refresh us with the knowledge that You are the Lord of all life, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

I Samuel 3:1-20

(The Lord calls Samuel and speaks to him about Eli.)

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli.

In those days the Word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place.

The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the Ark of God was.

Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am."

And he ran to Eli and said,

"Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said,

"I did not call; go back and lie down."

So he went and lay down.

Again the LORD called, "Samuel!"

And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said,

"I did not call; go back and lie down."

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD:

The Word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy.

So Eli told Samuel,

"Go and lie down, and if He calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.'"

So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."

And the LORD said to Samuel:

"See, I Am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle.

At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family-- from beginning to end.

For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.

Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'"

Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the House of the LORD.

He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, but Eli called him and said,

"Samuel, my son."

Samuel answered, "Here I am."

"What was it he said to you?" Eli asked.

"Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything He told you."

So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him.

Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let Him do what is good in His Eyes."

The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and He let none of his words fall to the ground.

And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

(Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit.)

"Everything is permissible for me"—
but not everything is beneficial.

"Everything is permissible for me"—
but I will not be mastered by anything.

"Food for the stomach and the stomach
for food"—but God will destroy them
both.

The body is not meant for sexual
immorality, but for the Lord, and the
Lord for the body.

By His Power God raised the Lord from
the dead, and He will raise us also.

Do you not know that your bodies are
members of Christ Himself?

Shall I then take the members of Christ
and unite them with a prostitute? Never!

Do you not know that he who unites
himself with a prostitute is one with her in
body?

For it is said,

"The two will become one flesh."

But he who unites himself with the Lord
is one with Him in spirit.

Flee from sexual immorality.

All other sins a man commits are outside
his body, but he who sins sexually sins
against his own body.

Do you not know that your body is a
temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you,
Whom you have received from God?

You are not your own; you were bought at
a price.

Therefore honor God with your body.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

❖ HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:43-51

(Jesus calls Philip, who calls his brother Nathanael.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The next day Jesus decided to leave for
Galilee.

Finding Philip, He said to him,

"Follow Me."

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from
the town of Bethsaida.

Philip found Nathanael and told him,
"We have found the One Moses wrote
about in the Law,
and about Whom the prophets also
wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of
Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.
"Come and see," said Philip.
When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, He said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false."
"How do You know me?"
Nathanael asked.
Jesus answered,
"I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Then Nathanael declared,
"Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."
Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that."
He then added,
"I tell you the truth, you shall see Heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

SONG

Ancient Words

**1. Holy words, long preserved For our walk in this world;
They resound with God's own heart - O, let the ancient words impart.**

**2. Words of life, words of hope Give us strength, help us cope;
In this world where'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us home.**

Refrain

**Ancient words, ever true, Changing me, changing you;
we have come with open hearts - O, let the ancient words impart.**

**3. Holy words of our faith Handed down to this age,
came to us through sacrifice - O, heed the faithful words of Christ.**

**4. Martyr's blood stains each page - They have died for this faith;
hear them cry through the years, Heed these words and hold them dear.**

Refrain

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SERMON

Real Issues, Real Grace
1: Sex and the Sanctified Sinner
1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

(For an outline of the sermon, see page 14 of this worship folder.)

❖ CREED

MARTIN LUTHER'S EXPLANATION TO THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

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❖ GREETING OF PEACE

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (*Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3*)

Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God's people will be received through electronic giving at rlcary.org or by postal mail.)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens

LSB 589, vs. 1, 3-4

**1. Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor That I cling to You forever!**

3. Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving; On Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing!

4. As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

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❖ OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

As the Magi brought gifts; as Samuel's parents dedicated him; and as Philip used his talents to bring his brother to You,

C so we pray that You will accept these tokens of all that we are and have.

O Son of God and King of Israel, use them for the spread of Your Kingdom here and everywhere. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

❖ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Father in Heaven, thank You for Your Spirit's Gift of faith enabling us to receive forgiveness, Life, and salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C **Help us live in faith every day.**

P Thank You for the gift of life.

C **Help us live in faith every day honoring and speaking up for the value You give to life.**

P Thank You for instituting marriage between a man and a woman so that they might complement one another, reflect Your Relationship with us in Christ, and be the context for Your ongoing procreation of life.

C **Help us live in faith every day honoring our spouses and Your Gift of marriage.**

P Thank You, Father, for purifying us in Jesus through the waters of Holy Baptism.
C **Help us live in faith every day making good decisions and being pure in thought, word, and deed.**

P Thank You for Your rich and daily Forgiveness for all believers.
C **Help us live in faith every day confessing our sins and trusting in Your Mercy and Grace and the strength to strive again to live for Your Glory.**

P Thank You, Lord, for the opportunities You provide to give witness to Your Truth and bring our influence to bear upon our culture.
C **Help us live in faith every day boldly sharing Your Truth in words spoken in love and in deeds performed in mercy.**

P Merciful Father, we now bring the needs and joys of our congregation before You.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Dearest Father, cause us to respect all that You make, to care for all people, and to celebrate the life that shines through the deepest darkness, undimmed and eternal. Into Your Hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Mercy for the Sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

❖ LORD'S PRAYER

C **Our Father Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done on earth
as it is in Heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the Kingdom
and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. (*Numbers 6:24-26*)
C **Amen.**

❖ **CLOSING HYMN**

I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light

LSB 411

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

Refrain

**In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, And show me the way to the Father.**

Refrain

**3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.**

Refrain

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P Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – J. S. Bach

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Acknowledgments

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Real Issues, Real Grace,
1: Sex and the Sanctified Sinner
Epiphany 2/Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (1 Corinthians 6:12–20)

Today is the first of a four-part series on 1 Corinthians. This year, we look at the middle section of 1 Corinthians, where St. Paul investigates 4 “real world” topics. The first is the theme of sex and love as gifted by God.

1. **Sanctity is the quality of being _____, _____, or _____** (Merriam-Webster). Though historically associated with the pro-life movement in the United States, Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is an opportunity to recognize the valuable and even “holy” aspect of human life, though hate, violence, fear, and depersonalization of it reflect the denigrating impact of sin.
2. **The Law/Gospel of God extends to the entire person and the _____ of _____...including sexual behavior.** St. Paul engages the people Corinth with the truth that though sex is to be enjoyed, it is never an end unto itself. It is a sublime reality bringing its greatest fulfillment in the context of marriage between one man and one woman for life.
3. **We, like the Corinthian Christians, separate _____ and _____:** “All things are lawful”... “Behavior between consenting adults should be allowed.” St. Paul’s answer: in Christ we need not “be dominated by anything” (6:12). The body is not meant for the fulfilling of appetites and nothing more. The body is meant for *more*.
4. **Our bodies are _____, made for God-given love, members of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit!** No matter our past, our new identity in Christ is as God’s beloved who value life and build erotic love on sacrificial love
5. What matters is that **we have “been _____ with a _____.”** Jesus gave up all, that we might know life and purity in Him. Our identity is no longer as sinners who fail to live up to the Law...but as the forgiven. We are people purchased and redeemed to glorify God with our bodies.