

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

January 25, 2026

“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN *“Sovereign Ruler of the Skies”* (tune: LSB #783)

- 1 **Sovereign Ruler of the skies, Ever gracious, ever wise,
All my times are in Your hand, All events at Your command.**
- 2 **He that formed me in the womb Guides my footsteps till the tomb;
All my times shall ever be Ordered by His wise decree.**
- 3 **Mortal dangers round me fly; ‘Till He bids, I cannot die;
Not a single arrow hits ‘Till, in love, our God permits.**
- 4 **God all-gracious, wise and just, In Your hands my life I trust;
You at all times I will bless: Having You, I all possess.**

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION Psalm 139 (ESV)

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

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: You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

C: Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.

P: Almighty and Everlasting God, Your understanding comprehends all things. You see how Your creatures have departed from Your wise design. You know the desires of all humankind have become entirely unrighteous. Our thoughts, words, and deeds worship up above You and serve self instead of one another. Yet Your Son has assumed our feeble nature and feels our weakness and need. For the sake of His sacrifice, remember us in mercy. Lay not Your hand of reckoning upon us and grant forgiveness for all our sins.

C: Amen.

P: Where shall I go from Your Spirit?

C: Or where shall I flee from Your presence?

P: If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,”

C: even the darkness is not dark to You; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with You.

P: O Lord, our Heavenly Father, You pursue us in jealousy to the ends of the heavens and earth. We cannot flee from Your judgment nor hide from the punishments we deserve. But Your Son, our Savior Christ Jesus, has traded our guilt in exchange for His glory. His death and resurrection have brought us the light of life everlasting. Drive our evils away from us with repentance, forgiveness, and faith, that we may behold Your goodness now and evermore.

C: Amen.

P: For You formed my inward parts;

C: You knitted me together in my mother’s womb.

P: I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

C: Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.

P: Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them,

C: the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

P: How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God!

C: How vast is the sum of them!

P: If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

C: I awake, and I am still with You.

P: Dear children, loved by God, do not fear! Jesus Christ has come among us, sharing both womb and world, and has plundered death and the tomb for the forgiveness of all your sins. Take heart, for the Almighty Maker has created, redeemed, and called you His own. Upon your confession, in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #801 "How Great Thou Art"



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Lord God, our heavenly Father, open our hearts to receive and delight in Your wonders. Open our lips to rejoice and proclaim all Your works. Strengthen us in body and spirit to refuse wickedness and replace the lust for control with Your own truth and love. Give us courage to rescue the vulnerable and compassion to relieve the victim that together we may share Your life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Job 10:9-12 (ESV)

Remember that You have made me like clay; and will You return me to the dust? Did You not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. You have granted me life and steadfast love, and Your care has preserved my spirit.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Hebrews 2:5-18 (ESV)

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that You are mindful of him, or the son of man, that You care for him? You made Him for a little while lower than the angels; You have crowned Him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under His feet" [Ps. 8:4-6]. Now in putting everything in subjection to Him, He left nothing outside His control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him. But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, "I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise" [Ps. 22:22]. And again, "I will put my trust in Him" [Isaiah 8:17]. And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given Me" [Isaiah 8:18]. Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(tune: LSB #803, Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord of power, Lord of love,
You give life and to redeem us Gave Your Son from heav'n above.
Send us now Your Holy Spirit. Strengthen faith; our life renew.
By the grace Your Word now gives us Help us love life as You do.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 10:24-33 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge before My Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies Me before men, I also will deny before My Father who is in heaven."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and
was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(please be seated)

THE MEMORY VERSE *Meaning of 1st Article of Apostles' Creed from Luther's Small Catechism*

**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.**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #790 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

THE SERMON "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" Text: Genesis 2:7-9, 16-17

Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. . . .

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #786 “Lord of All Good”



1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
2 We give our minds to un - der - stand Your ways;
△ 3 Fa - ther, whose boun - ty all cre - a - tion shows;



Use them Your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill.
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great de - sign;
Christ, by whose will - ing sac - ri - fice we live;



To - kens of love and pledg - es they shall be
Hearts with the flame of Your own love a - blaze—
Spir - it, from whom all life in full - ness flows:



That our whole life is of - fered to Your will.
Thus for Your glo - ry all our pow'rs com - bine.
To You with grate - ful hearts our - selves we give.

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THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(Each petition concludes with the response: “Lord, in Your mercy” “**Hear our prayer.**”)*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #863 *"Our Father, by Whose Name"*



1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name All fa - ther-hood is known,
2 O Christ, Thy - self a child With - in an earth - ly home,
3 O Spir - it, who dost bind Our hearts in u - ni - ty,



Who dost in love pro - claim Each fam - i - ly Thine own,
With heart still un - de - filed, Thou didst to man-hood come;
Who teach - est us to find The love from self set free,



Bless Thou all par - ents, guard - ing well, With con - stant love as
Our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place That they may all be -
In all our hearts such love in - crease That ev - 'ry home by



sen - ti - nel, The homes in which Thy peo - ple dwell.
hold Thy face, And know - ing Thee may grow in grace.
this re - lease May be the dwell - ing place of peace.

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS