



## St. Peter Lutheran Church

Missouri Synod  
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# Sanctity of Life Sunday

## Hands that Knit – Arms that Hold

### Prelude

**Opening Hymn** “O Holy Spirit, Enter In” LSB 913

### Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father,  
**People: By whose name all fatherhood is known.**  
 Pastor: In the name of the Son,  
**People: Who Himself became a child.**  
 Pastor: In the name of the Holy Spirit,  
**People: Who teaches us a selfless love.**  
**All: Amen!**

### Confession

Pastor: Children of God, let us draw near with a humble heart and confess our sins to our heavenly Father and ask that, for Jesus' sake, He would forgive us.  
 Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**People: Who made heaven and earth.**  
 Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,  
**People: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**  
**Lord God, we confess with David, “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”**

**By nature, we are self-centered. This leads us into all kinds of sins of thought, word, and deed. Our love for ourselves often gets in the way of our love for others. Father, have mercy upon us. Forgive our selfishness and our lovelessness. Give us a servant's heart so that we might understand true greatness and what it means to welcome a little child.**

**Pastor:** Be of good cheer! Your heavenly Father knit you together in your mother's womb. Jesus' great love for you led Him to sacrifice Himself upon the cross where He paid the price for your sins. He welcomes you into His loving and forgiving arms. Therefore, 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.

**People:** **Amen! Thank you, Father, for welcoming into Your arms those who Your hands knit together in the womb.**

### Entrance Psalm Psalm 139:13-18

**Pastor:** For You formed my inward parts;  
**People: You knitted me together in my mother's womb.**  
**Pastor:** I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
**People: Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well.**  
**Pastor:** My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret,  
**People: Intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**  
**Pastor:** Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them,  
**People: The days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.**  
**Pastor:** How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God!  
**People: How vast is the sum of them!**  
**Pastor:** If I would count them, they are more than the sand.  
**People: I awake, and I am still with You.**  
**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### Hymn of Praise

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”  
 vs. 1&3 (LSB 802)1

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, O Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise!

3 To all life Thou givest—to both great and small—  
In all life Thou livest, the true Life of all;  
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree  
And wither and perish—but naught changes Thee.

### Collect

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord.

Our Father in Heaven, who knit us together in our mothers' wombs, and welcomed us as Your children through the arms of Jesus, send Your Spirit among us so that we might understand the greatness of welcoming a little child; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen!**

### Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 14:1-2

You are the sons of the LORD your God. You shall not cut yourselves or make any baldness on your foreheads for the dead. For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle Reading Galatians 4:1-7

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,

born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

### Gospel Reading Mark 10:13-16

And they were bringing children to Him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, He was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them.

### Creed

**Hymn of the Day** "See This Wonder in the Making" LSB 593

### Sermon

**Offering Choir Hymn** "Our Father, by Whose Name" LSB 863

### Prayers

Pastor: Father in heaven, thank You for creating us and knitting us together in our mothers' wombs.

**People: We are fearfully and wonderfully made!**

Pastor: Thank You for the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and through His loving arms welcoming us as Your children.

**People: How marvelous are Your works!**

Pastor: When we look upon those not yet born,

**People: Help us see them as children who need to be welcomed and brought to the arms of Jesus.**

Pastor: When we look upon those struggling with an unplanned pregnancy,

**People: Help us see them as "children," welcome them, and be for them the compassionate arms of Jesus.**

Pastor: When we are aware of those who are wounded by a past abortion decision,

**People:** Help us see them as “children,” welcome them, and be for them the healing arms of Jesus.

**Pastor:** We pray for caring pregnancy centers, counselors, pastors, and all those who have opportunity to serve others in difficult situations.

**People:** Thank you for these people. Strengthen them in their service and help them be the caring arms of Jesus.

**Pastor:** We pray for Lutherans For Life.

**People:** May they continue to serve You by equipping us all to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

**Pastor:** As Your children, we now bring the needs and joys of our congregation before You. (Special intercessions may be offered here.) Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son Jesus Christ, who has taught us to pray

**People:** Our Father ...

## The Celebration of Holy Communion

*(Beginning on Page 208-212 in your hymnals)*

*Please see Communion Statement on page 7*

Distribution Hymns: Brothers & Sisters in Christ, #617, #611, #570, #744

## Benediction

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you as His children. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**People:** Amen!

**Closing Hymn** “Lord of Life” (Tune: Hyfrydol) 2

1. Lord of life, Whose hand has made us,  
Formed us each with tender care.  
You had crowned man with Your image,  
Not intending such despair.  
Yet through sin the glory faded,  
Death and doom came in its place.  
But in spite of our condition,  
We’ve been rescued by Your grace!

2. God so loved the world, He gave us,  
Jesus Christ to bear our sin.  
On the cross His life He offered,  
That we might be His again.  
And the Holy Spirit calls us  
By the gospel’s joyful ring.  
Making us His own dear children  
Us, eternal life to bring.
3. Lord of Life, Who rose in triumph,  
Conquering death and giving hope,  
You have called us and equipped us,  
In a sinful world to cope;  
Teaching us to love each other,  
To befriend and help in strife;  
To forgive and seek to comfort,  
And preserve the gift of life.
4. Help us, Lord, to see as You do  
Life is precious in each stage.  
From the unborn to the feeble,  
Life is precious in each age.  
Help us, Lord, to be Your witness  
And to show the world we care.  
So that people may not perish,  
But, instead Your life may share.

## Postlude

### (Endnotes)

- 1 Text and tune: Public domain
- 2 From *For Life: ProLife Songs for the Classroom, Choir, and Congregation*. Edited for Lutherans For Life, Frank Mogan, 2000. ©Text: Rev. Gerald Scheperle, 1985. Used by permission.

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