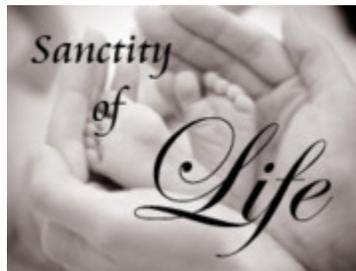


~ *Life Sunday* ~



If multiple people are participating, one may serve as leader, reading the light faced type, the rest reading the bold faced type.

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE (to be read or sung)

"Hosanna"

*Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Lord, we lift up Your name,
With hearts full of praise;
Be exalted, O Lord my God!
Hosanna in the highest!*

*Glory, Glory
Glory to the King of Kings!
Glory, Glory
Glory to the King of Kings!*

*Lord, we lift up Your name,
With hearts full of praise;
Be exalted, O Lord my God,
Hosanna in the highest!*

Carl Tuttle; © 1985; Shadow Spring Music; Used by Permission CCLI # 1330395

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jonah 3:1–5, 10 (ESV)

(The Lord causes repentance of the Ninevites through Jonah's preaching.)

3 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, ²“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” ³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. ⁴ Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” ⁵ And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

Nineveh is the capital of Assyria, one of Israel's worst enemies. No Israelite wanted to see them given the chance to repent and experience God's mercy: Jonah wanted to see God strike them dead, as the rest of the book brings out.

What was the message God had Jonah proclaim to them (verse 4)?

What did the people do in response to Jonah's message (verse 10)?

What did God do (verse 10)?

What does this tell you about God and His attitude towards the lives of people? your life?

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 7:29–35 (ESV)

(As time grows short, Paul encourages faithful use of time.)

²⁹ This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. ³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

Would you say it is important for husbands to please their wives, and wives their husbands (within reason)? deal in worldly things like earning a living and buying necessities?

What is yet more essential than these important things (verse 32)?

What can you do in your life to give priority to the Lord over important life matters that you still need to concern yourself with?

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14–20 (ESV)

(Jesus calls the first disciples to follow Him.)

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, *“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”*

¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, *“Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”* ¹⁸ And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰ And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Some thoughts to consider from this reading...

List all the instances you see here of God reaching into humanity to bring them good.

Jesus invites 4 fishermen. What was their response?

What does this mean to you: “I will make you become fishers of men?”

God’s reign “is at hand:” what is good about it?

Thank God for His inviting you to enjoy it!

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.

PRAYERS

Thanks to God for His precious gift of life and loving us enough to buy us back to be His forever;
God’s guidance that we enhance the lives of people around us and that we find ways to increase society’s valuation of human life;

An end to this pandemic;

God to accomplish His good purposes through this pandemic, leading many to trust in Him;

Protection and strength for our healthcare workers;

Help for the sick;

Help for those seeking employment;

God’s wisdom and guidance for our leaders;

God’s blessing and wisdom on our new president as he begins his service;

Unity for our country, a healing of our divisiveness;

and any other needs of which you are aware – including names listed in the announcements, especially...*Nikki...Stanton...Joanne Harding...Jamal Turner...Hinkelman Family...Mary*

Englar...The Smith Family...Tom Prassinias...Amy...A.J....Luis...Ashley...Pastor Sherry

McGuffin...Avery...Family & Friends of Edith Lambert †... Family & Friends of Lois Dodson †.

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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God. (Psalm 103:1)

Leader: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
bless and preserve us.

People: Amen.



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