

# By God's Design

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday  
3rd Sunday after Epiphany  
January 26, 2025 – 11:00 AM

## AS WE GATHER

On this day we remember that God, the author of all life, holds all human life sacred, for He created every person who lives. Jesus our Savior proclaimed the great value of human life by dying for the rescue from sin of all who live. God has given immeasurable significance to every person across the generations. You are beloved, no matter how young. You belong, no matter how old. You belong because God

## WELCOME

## WE SING

**“Child Of Love”  
“Remind Me Who I Am”**

## WE CONFESS OUR FAITH – Apostles' Creed

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

# WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

*God's people grieved as they recognized how they had strayed from the ways of the Lord. Yet they found new hope in the faithfulness of God in His Word.*

<sup>1</sup>When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. <sup>2</sup>So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. <sup>3</sup>He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. .

<sup>5</sup>Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. <sup>6</sup>Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. . . .

<sup>8</sup>They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people could understand what was being read.

<sup>9</sup>Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, “This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.” For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

<sup>10</sup>Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

## **EPISTLE READING**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

*Listen to the value that the Lord places on each one of us!  
In Christ we belong to Him and to one another!*

<sup>12</sup>The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. <sup>14</sup>Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup>If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many parts, but one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, <sup>24</sup>while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, <sup>25</sup>so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Luke 4:14-21**

*Jesus declares that He has come to restore our lives.*

<sup>14</sup>Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup>He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised Him.

<sup>16</sup>He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And He stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup>Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him, <sup>21</sup>and He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

**KIDS' TIME**

*DCE Liz Peters*

**MESSAGE**

**"Just As He Wanted"**

*Pastor Aaron Asmus*

(1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

**GOD OUR CREATOR VALUES AND PROTECTS HUMAN LIFE**

**WE RESPOND TO THE WORD**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*P: Let us confess our sins in humble repentance.*

**(Silence for meditation and self-examination)**

*P: Most merciful God,*

**All: We confess that we have not always honored You with our bodies and our lives. So often we have done those things You do not desire us to do. Our thoughts have been impure. Our words have been unkind. We have not stood up for the helpless; we have not fully valued the life You have created in all human-kind. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

**WE PRAY TO OUR LORD**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**PREPARATION | WORDS OF INSTITUTION | SHARING OF PEACE**

**WE SING DURING THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

*"All The People Said Amen"*

*"Joy of the Lord"*

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE CLOSING BLESSING**

**SONG**

**"Rise Up (Lazarus)"**

---

**OUR OFFERINGS**

All that we have and all that we are belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online [memoriallutheran.net](http://memoriallutheran.net) or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.