

Proclaiming the Sanctity of All Human Life



Through the Church Year, we are reminded that:

- We are all descended from Adam and Eve, and thus are members of one human race.¹
- We are all sinners.²
- On account of our sins, we all deserve the punishment of death.³
- Being dead in our sins/trespasses, none of us can save him/herself.⁴
- Out of His deep love for mankind, God sent His Son to die on the Cross, that everyone who believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.⁵
- God desires all people, regardless of ethnicity, skin color, social position, or gender, to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.⁶
- By His will, God's Church on earth includes members from a great diversity of backgrounds.⁷
- We joyfully anticipate the Last Day, when we will be numbered among a "great multitude ... from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages," eternally in God's presence, and singing His praise.⁸
- We celebrate all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, bar none, as God's gifts to us, and we pray that through us, He will continue to gather people from the four corners of the earth, and further grow His Kingdom.⁹

Indeed, every time we gather to receive God's gifts, we hear, read, pray, confess, and sing¹⁰ the sanctity of all human life, from fertilization to forever!

Notes (references given to the One- and Three-Year Lectionaries, followed by Feasts/Festivals, which are common to both):

1. Genesis 1:28 (OT reading: Easter Vigil, Trinity 21, Holy Trinity A); Genesis 3:20 (OT reading: Lent 1, Lent 1A)
2. Romans 3:23 (Epistle: Proper 4A, Reformation Day)
3. Romans 6:23 (Epistle: Trinity 7, Proper 7A)
4. Psalm 51: 10 (Ash Wednesday [every year, both Lectionaries]; Easter 7, Trinity 9, Proper 17B; c.f. Offertory, DS3; Versicles, Responsive Prayer 2); Ephesians 2:5 (Epistle: Trinity 11, Lent 4B); also note the texts in the Confession and Absolution in each of the Divine Service settings, Compline, as well as in the rites of Corporate and Individual Confession and Absolution.
5. John 3:16-17 (Gospel: Pentecost Evening/Monday [every year, both Lectionaries], Holy Trinity [alternate ending], Lent 2A, Lent 4B, Holy Trinity B)
6. Romans 10:12 (Epistle: Trinity 12, Lent 1C, Proper 14A, St. Andrew); Galatians 3:27-28 (Epistle: Proper 7C, Circumcision and Name of Jesus); 1 Timothy 2:4 (Epistle: Easter 6, Proper 20C, Day of National Thanksgiving); 2 Peter 3:9 (Epistle: Trinity 26, Advent 2B)
7. 1 Corinthians 12:13 (Epistle: Epiphany 3C); Ephesians 2:14 (Epistle: Trinity 2, Proper 11B); Colossians 3:11 (Epistle: Proper 13C)
8. Revelation 7:9-10 (Easter 4C, All Saints Day); note that the souls of those who have gone before us are already numbered among the company of heaven, while their bodies sleep, awaiting the Resurrection on the Last Day.
9. Matthew 28:19 (Gospel: Holy Trinity A; Rites of Baptism and Confirmation); Acts 2:47 (Reading: Lent 4, Easter 4A, Proper 3BC)
10. Re: hymnody, consider, for example, LSB 510, *A Multitude Comes from the East and the West*; Chief Hymn for Trinity 2 (option), Proper 16C, Proper 23A