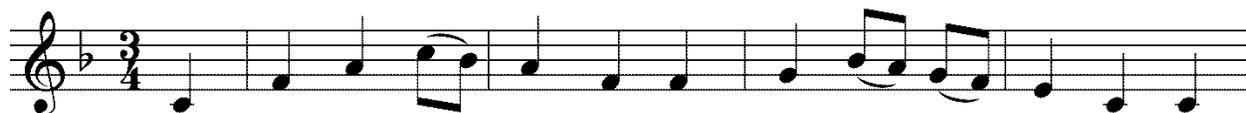


PRAYER SERVICE FOR LIFE

HYMN

stand

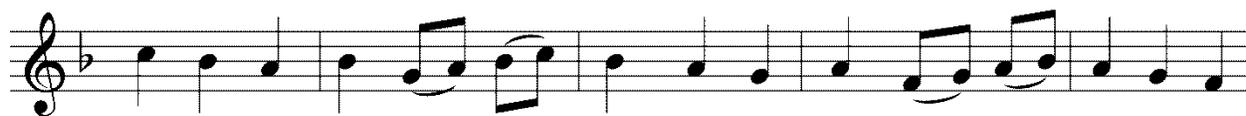
Let All Things Now Living



1a. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing To
1b. Who fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us, By
2a. His law he en - forc - es, The stars in their cours - es, The
2b. The hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains, The



God our Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise;
guid - ing us on to the end of our days. God's ban - ners are
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine,
depths of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine. We, too, should be



o'er us, Pure light goes be - fore us, A pil - lar of fire shin - ing
voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing With glad ad - o - ra - tion, a



forth in the night: Till shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is
song let us raise: Till all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks -



ban - ished, As for - ward we trav - el from light in - to Light.
giv - ing To God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise.

INTRODUCTION

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

Assembly: Amen.

Leader: May God, our life, our strength, and our salvation
be with you all.

Assembly: And with your spirit.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, Scripture tells us that Jesus came that we might have life and live it to the full. We come together today to better understand the issues surrounding human life. We come together to learn how to protect life from conception to natural death. We come together today to reflect on the sacredness of all human life which is a gift from God.

Let us ask take a moment of silent prayer to ask the God of life to bless our gathering.

Pause for silent prayer.

Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness.

Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life.

Through Christ our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke:

Mary set out
and traveled to the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah,
where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
"Most blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

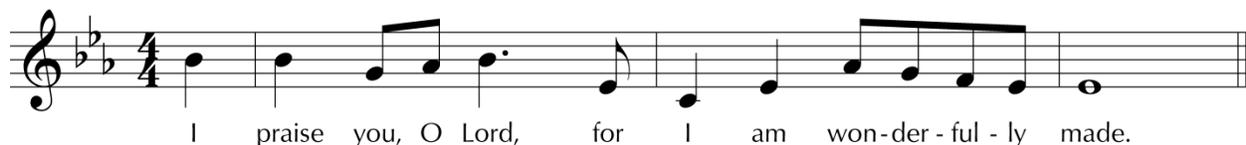
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For at the moment the sound of your greeting
reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 139



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If the psalm is not sung, the following may be used.

I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

**O LORD, you have probed me, you know me:
you know when I sit and when I stand;
you understand my thoughts from afar.
My journeys and my rest you scrutinize,
with all my ways you are familiar.**

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

**Truly you have formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother's womb.
I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works.**

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

**My soul also you knew full well;
nor was my frame unknown to you
When I was made in secret,
when I was fashioned in the depths of the earth.**

R. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

Leader:

In God, the author of life, we place our trust and hope as we pray:

Reader:

That justice, truth, and a love for the gift of life might inspire the work of all legislators, governors, and our President, we pray to the Lord:

R: Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

For all who do not embrace the rights of the unborn that, in love, they may come to know the dignity of every person in the eyes of God, we pray to the Lord:

R: Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

For those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Marriage: that they might embrace their role as sharers in God's creative love, we pray to the Lord:

R: Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

For all who touch the lives of the condemned, the old, and the forgotten, that they might have compassion, respect, and appreciation for the dignity of all human life, we pray to the Lord:

R: Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

For the dying that through the love, care, and devotion of others they may know the beauty of life in their dying moments, we pray to the Lord:

R: Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

For the all the victims of the culture of death that like Lazarus, forgotten and poor, they may be welcomed into God's eternal peace, we pray to the Lord:

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray to the God of life
in the words our Savior gave us:

Our Father...

COLLECT

Leader: God our Creator, we give thanks to you
who alone have the power to impart the breath of life
as you form each of us in our mother's womb;
grant, we pray,
that we, whom you have made stewards of creation,
may remain faithful to this sacred trust
and constant in safeguarding the dignity
of every human life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.

R: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace.

R: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Marian Anthem



1. Ma - ry, full of grace, Splen - dor of our race, Ho - ly
2. Moth - er, Vir - gin pure, Hope and ref - uge sure, Lead us



Vir - gin Ma - ri - a! Pray for us to Christ, your Son,
safe - ly to Je - sus! Spir - it filled and low - ly,



Now and when our life is done! O - ra, O - ra pro no - bis!
Mir - ror of the Ho - ly! O - ra, O - ra pro no - bis!

If the above prayer service is used to open a meeting the following could be used at the conclusion, or visa-versa.

PRAYER FOR LIFE

Blessed Pope John Paul II

O Mary,
bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
to you do we entrust the cause of life:
Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies
 not allowed to be born,
of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
of men and women who are victims of brutal violence,
of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference
or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son
may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love to the people of our time.
Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel
 as a gift ever new,
the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
 throughout their lives,
and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely,
in order to build, together with all people of good will,
 the civilization of truth and love,
to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

Given in Rome on 25 March 1995, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord