***PRAYER SERVICE FOR*** ***LIFE***

**Leader:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

**Leader:** May God, our life, our strength, and our salvation

be with you all.

All: 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.

Leader: Creator 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.

All: Amen.

WORD OF GOD

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the holy Gospel according to Luke: 1:39-45:

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.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 139

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.

INTERCESSIONS

**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:

R: Lord of Life, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Let us pray to the God of life

in the words our Savior gave us: Our Father…

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.