



## Our God is a God of Life Responsive Reading

[Please provide: a copy of this responsive reading for all participants]

**Leader:** Triune God, we come to You today in thankfulness for the human life that You create, redeem, grow, and sustain.

**All:** Jesus, You tell us in Your Word, *I came that they may have life and have it abundantly* (John 10:10b).

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, *Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them* (Psalm 139:16). God, our finite minds cannot comprehend this. Yet, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we believe that this is true.

**All:** Lord God, *You formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb, I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made* (Psalm 139:13–14a). You know when every act of conception occurs. Every life is precious to You.

**Leader:** God of all creation, human life is so much more to You than just a physical body. You care immensely about every aspect of who we are. While You bless us with bodies with skin and bones and organs, You also bless us with minds that learn, hearts that love and care, as well as with souls. You care so much about us that You sent Your one and only Son, Jesus, to save us from the eternal damnation we deserve because of our sins.

**All:** Jesus, *You bore our sins in [Your] body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness* (1 Peter 2:24). You rose from the dead so that we, through faith in You, have the sure and certain promise of eternal life. Your words reassure us of this truth, *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die"* (John 11:25–26). You also say, *"Because I live, you also will live"* (John 14:19b).

**Leader:** God of all life, You know that some in our society do not value life the way that You intend. Abortion threatens life in the womb. Hate leads to bloodshed and death. People attempt to define who is worthy of life and who is not, whether it's an unborn child, a person with developmental disabilities, or the aged. Forgive us for the times we have not valued every life the way that You do. By the power of the Holy Spirit, give us compassionate hearts that forgive others. Give us caring hearts that want to serve and help all in need. Give us voices that joyfully tell the truth that eternal life is found only through faith in You.

**All:** Help us, dear Father, to live as Jesus lived with love for all. By the power of the Holy Spirit, *may all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from [us] along with all malice. May we be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave [us]* (Ephesians 4:31–32).

**Leader:** Help us, God, to stand up for human life. Help us to remember that from the moment of conception, life matters. Help us to remember that in all stages of our lives on this earthly

journey, life matters. Help us to remember that life is not ours to take, but is a gift given to us by You. Help us to proclaim that Jesus came so that we might have abundant life, now and in eternity. We pray together:

**All:** Thank You, God, for giving us life, both physical and eternal. Thank You for Your Word that reminds us that You planned every day of our lives even before we began to breathe. Thank You for The Word, Jesus, who died and rose again so that we might have new eternal lives through the faith You give us when we are baptized and through the faith you strengthen in us through Holy Communion. By the power of the Holy Spirit, lead us to regard, preserve, and proclaim human life as Your very precious gift. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

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