



Take My Life

The Lord gives us many blessings in life, including life itself. Take a deeper look at “Take My Life and Let It Be” (*LSB 783*) as you learn about the gifts God has given you to serve Him and His people.

Opening Prayer: Read together verse one and two of “Take My Life and Let It Be” as your prayer.

My Silver, Gold, and Intellect

Read or sing verse four of “Take My Life and Let It Be.”

What do we offer to God to use in this verse?

In this verse of the hymn, we are offering monetary support for missions and more. We also use our intellect, our gifts of mental ability to think and reason, so that we can serve Him wherever and whenever He has need of us.

Read **Luke 21:1-4**.

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ³ “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. ⁴ All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

As women of the LWML, we have seen how mites can be used. Share one of your favorite mission grants at any level that LWML mites have been used to serve God.

You may want to find the list of current grants in the current Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. You can also find a list of your home district's current grants. These may be in your newsletter or LWML district website.

Read **Romans 12:2**. How can we be “renewing... our mind” to serve God?

Romans 12:2 *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will.”*

The explanation of the 3rd Article of the Apostle's Creed tells us that “the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.” This work of the Holy Spirit transforms us to live a life of service to God and our neighbor. We are given intellect so that we can know how and plan to serve those God has put in our lives. We are given a “renewal of your mind” by the Holy Spirit, so we use our intellect, our mental abilities, to glorify the Lord. Note that the hymn verse reminds us “as Thou shalt choose.” God is the one who prepares work for us to do and guides us as we complete His tasks.

My Will and Heart

Read or sing verse five of “Take My Life and Let It Be.”

How are we called to serve God in this verse?

This verse calls us to serve God by following His will and asking that He makes our will His own. We also ask that God makes our heart be a place for Him to rule.

What do **Philippians 2:13** and **Hebrews 13:20-21** tell us about God's will in our lives?

Philippians 2:13 *For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

Hebrews 13:20-21 *Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

God surely does make our will His will. We can't do that on our own, or truly even ask for it to happen without the Holy Spirit working in us. Our Lord will equip us with what we need to do His will and complete His purpose for us. We do this for His pleasure and to His glory.

Read **Galatians 2:20** and **Colossians 3:23**. What can we learn about Christ in our hearts and lives?

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

Colossians 3:23 *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."*

Because Christ lives in us, through Baptism and God's grace, we are able to do all we do for the Lord. We show that Christ is the Lord of our hearts (1 Peter 3:15) when we live to serve Him.

How can people work for "human masters," as Colossians says? (See also Ephesians 6:5-6)

Ephesians 6:5-6 *Bondservants (slaves,) obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart ...*

Human masters refers to those for whom we are working in this world.

Participants might also bring up other masters -- when we put earthly things, our own desires, and other "stuff" that can pull our focus away from serving God.

How can we as Christians stay close to God and let our hearts be His dwelling place?

By remembering and celebrating the life-giving waters of our baptism, and partaking in Holy Communion, our sins are forgiven and the "Old Adam" in us is drowned. We are cleansed from our sins and given a new life in Christ.

My Love and Myself

Read or sing verse six of "Take My Life and Let It Be."

What does this verse encourage?

This verse encourages us to use our love and our lives in service to our Lord and our neighbor.

How does God encourage us to love in **Luke 10:27**?

Luke 10:27 *And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."*
God wants us to love Him with all that we are and have. He asks us to give everything to Him. God also commands us to love those around us and to serve them just as much as we take care of ourselves.

How can God use our lives according to 2 Corinthians 5:15?

2 Corinthians 5:15 *And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*
God uses the lives of ordinary people to serve Him in His Kingdom.

What does serving God look like to you?

Allow participants to share how they have been given opportunities to serve to God's glory. How has your group been able to serve in your congregation, your community, and beyond?

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, we know that without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing good. We thank You for the opportunities we have to serve You and that You make us aware of those opportunities. Guide us to always remember that You are the one who works in us to even ask for You to take our lives and use them for Your will. In Your name we pray, Amen.

Close by singing verse three of "Take My Life and Let it Be."