



*And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6:13)*

When faced with an unplanned pregnancy, a prenatal diagnosis, a terminal illness, and similar challenges, we may be tempted by voices from the fallen world around us to take that which they call the “compassionate” option and choose death. Some of these voices might even tempt us with misquoted and/or misapplied Scripture. How can we resist these, or any temptations which we face in this vale of tears?

Jesus showed us the way in His response to the devil in the wilderness. Even in a state of severe starvation, in which He was likely close to dying, our Lord stood firm in His uncorrupted Word, and thus forced the evil one to leave. Likewise, when the tempter attacks us, we can prevail by standing firm in Scripture, from which we know that all human life is precious to God from the moment of fertilization into eternity, that He deeply loves us and cares for each one of us, that what He ordains for us is always good, and that the even weakest among us are indispensable members of our community.

When we pray, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,” God equips us to stand firm and resist the devil, as He has promised to do. He calls and gathers us to receive His gifts in His Divine Services to us, all of which testify to the sanctity of life. Through our pastors, He absolves our sins over which we sorrow and for which we repent and confess (yes, even when we have sinned by choosing death; note that God forgives us through our fellow Christians as well); He proclaims His Law and Gospel rightly divided into our ears; and He delivers His Son’s very Body and Blood to our mouths. Yes, we will all fail again, but God loves us and has promised to deliver us from every evil of body and soul. He will not abandon us but will continually draw us back to the foot of the Cross to confess our sins and receive His forgiveness, life and salvation. And when we reach the end of our earthly lives that He has chosen for us, we can fall asleep secure in the certain hope that on the last day, we will wake up and rise again in body and soul to an eternal life of bliss in His presence.

Thanks be to God.