

There is a phrase in an old Lutheran liturgy that I truly appreciate. It is the phrase: *“time for the amendment of life.”* I need to make a lot of amendments for past actions. Maybe you do as well? I do.

One of those amendments I need to make is for my attitudes towards two-year-olds. In particular, for the way I sometimes speak of two-year-olds. I use – way too often – the term: “the terrible twos.”

The problem is, I like using the term “the terrible twos.” I have gone through that stage of life with four children. And there were times with all of them – and in particular with one of them – when that term seemed so appropriate! But there I go again, and now I need to make amendment again!

I need to remind myself that there are some very special things which two year olds do. We can learn from this age group some lessons for life.

So I want to use something which two years olds do as an illustration for tonight’s message on the name: God Most Holy.

The illustration is this: Two year olds tend to hold up there arms like this...

And this is why: Two year olds at times think they are on their own. They have learned to walk and talk and explore. They are on the go. There are times when two years old think they can handle life all by themselves. Off they go as independent creatures!

But then something happens...

- They get tired, and they realize they need a safe place to rest.
 - They get hungry, and they realize they need someone to feed them.
 - They get hurt, and they need someone to make it better again.
 - They get scared, and they need someone to comfort them.
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Then the two years old do what can be a lesson for us tonight as we consider one of God’s names tonight – the name *El Elyon*: “God Most High.”

What the two year olds do is this. They stop, turn to a Parent, and hold out their arms up high, so that they might be lifted up and strengthened, comforted, and made better again.

Tonight, do you have some of those same needs? Have you felt like you could do it all? Have you been living as a Self-Contained-Human-Being? You can walk, you can talk, you can buy, you can sell, you can work, you can drive... You start to get the feeling that there is nothing you cannot do and there is nothing you need from God.

Then you come to that point where you are tired, or hurt, or empty, or lost. You have come to the end of your own resources – and it has not been enough. You reach out your arms to – God Most High. That is the lesson we learn from two year olds.

Listen to Psalm 91 again: *“Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the **Most High** your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who **know my name**. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.”* [Psalm 91:9-10, 14-15]

Sounds like a two year olds answer to a plea for help, doesn't it? “I will answer – I will be with you in trouble – I will rescue.”

Jesus said, *“When I am lifted up, I will draw everyone to myself.”* [John 12:32] When Jesus was on the cross his mother and his disciple John looked up at him. During Lent that is our attitude as well. We look up at Jesus on the cross.

He was not that high above us, when Jesus hung on the cross. But it was the absolute height of God's love for us. God Most High on the cross became our strength.

And now, as you live this week, there is nothing that can destroy you. Nothing. You can reach out and up to God, and he will raise you up on eagle's wings. Sing the chorus of the song with me...

And I will raise you up on eagle's wings.

Bear you on the breath of dawn.

Make you to shine like the sun.

And hold you in the palm of my hand.

The next time you go outside and see the sun shining, remember this conversation between the poet William Blake and shopkeeper. Blake asked the shopkeeper, "When you look up, what do you see?"

The shopkeeper said, "I see a yellow disk which looks to me like a golden coin. What do you see?"

William Blake said, "I see a host of angels, and they are crying, 'Holy, Holy, Lord God almighty, heaven and earth are filled with Thy glory. Glory be to Thee, O God, Most High.'" Amen.