

**June 20, 2021; 4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST; SUNDAY SERVICE & SERMON
FATHERS' DAY**

Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: Rebekah Olson (Other Singers)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 124:8 *Our help is in the name of the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

HYMN #559 AH "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" 9 am: #1 OVH "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER: Pastor Todd Erickson

CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Job 38:1-11

I Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said:

2 "Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? 3 Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

4 "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. 5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? 6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone- 7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

8 "Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, 9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, 10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, 11 when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 4:35-41 *That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*

READER: Here ends the reading of God's Word.

CONGREGATION SINGS: God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From where He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; The holy Christian Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen

GLORIA PATRI: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is not, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER FOR OFFERING

PRAISE AND WORSHIP SONG: Hannah Carrizales sends words to Marretta for power point.

SERMON TITLE: "THE FATHER'S JOB DESCRIPTION"

2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Pastor Tom Olson, June 20, 2021

Dear Friends, Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

MANUAL: I mentioned to you recently that the book of Proverbs is a good "owner's manual" for raising a family and living life. Other parts of the Bible are similar. Here in 2 Corinthians 6 the Apostle Paul speaks to the Corinthians as his beloved children. He felt like a father to those he won to Christ and organized into congregations. I can understand why several church denominations call their pastor "father" because many times I feel like a father to our members, even if they are older than I am. On this Fathers' Day I would like to look at this passage in light of the Apostle's life experience and see if we can't find here a JOB DESCRIPTION for a father.

I. EVANGELIST: SALVATION PRIORITY vss 1,2 &13

2 Corinthians 6:1,2,13 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. 2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation...13 ...I speak as to my children...

PRIMARY: It seems that the overriding concern of the Apostle Paul for the people is that they have the assurance of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. He appeals here ***"now is the day of salvation."*** Those of us who are fathers have one duty that is more important than any other duty and that is the care about the spiritual condition of our children. This should be a deep passion in our hearts. The Apostle Paul was so extremely passionate about it that in Romans 9 where he is grieving all the Jews who were rejecting Jesus as their Savior. He makes an extreme statement in ***Romans 9:3 for my people, my Jewish brothers and sisters. I would be willing to be forever cursed—cut off from Christ!—if that would save them.***

EXAMPLE: Now this doesn't mean we shove tons of religion down the throats of our children. Some people think that is their duty and it creates rebellion. It means spending time with them. Having a relationship with them. It means laughing. It means outings. It means going to their games and concerts. It means developing trust to the point that they respect us and want to know about our relationship with the Lord. It means above all else providing a GOOD EXAMPLE of faith, attitude, and reality in our own walk with God. Notice that Paul uses the word URGE and not DEMAND. In other passages he tells them how much he "longs to be with them."

PRIORITY: We witnessed the ordination of two pastors on Wednesday evening and some seasoned pastors urged these young pastors to love their flock and enjoy them. I know how much we have grown to love the churches we served. It is necessary to eventually leave a church and give them a chance to hear another preacher with a different emphasis, but leaving a church is hard like letting our children go when they grow up. But above all else we are happy when we have the confidence they are saved and we will be together in heaven. Our children leave home and that is so hard but it is right. We are comforted if we know we will be together with them in heaven one day. Salvation is a priority for the CHRISTIAN FATHER.

II. SELF SACRIFICING: DO WHAT IT TAKES TO PROTECT AND PROVIDE vss 3-10

Notice the self-sacrificing life that the Apostle Paul chose for the sake of getting the Gospel out to the churches.

2 Corinthians 6:3-10 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. 4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; 5 in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; 6 in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; 7 in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; 8 through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; 9 known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; 10 sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

UNREALITY: The world gives us a fairy tale version of the role of a father. It shows us images of a dad holding his tiny baby, there are dreams of cheering at sporting events, weeping at graduations and years and years of fun times together. And those things do indeed happen and they are the precious frosting on the cake of fatherhood. But the reality is that there is so much more than that.

REALITY: Infancy means many late nights of turns at trying to quite a screaming colicky baby. Our oldest had colic and the only way he would stop crying and sleep was for me to sit by his crib and let him suck on my little finger until he finally at some point in the late hours of the night went to sleep. It means toddler years where the old nature of that child can be so mean and cruel to siblings, it breaks your heart as you are forced to discipline them. It means sacrificing hobbies, interests, and personal desires to put the children first...sometimes hanging up the golf clubs for a period of twenty or more years depending on how many children you have. And then there is the real possibility that a child will reject the faith, or your values or even worse, go the path of crime and addictions. Being a father is dealing with the disappointments that things do not go as planned and sometimes nightmares become reality.

RESPONSIBILITY: Then there is the responsibility of getting up for work at 6 am and commuting through traffic for 40 years, week by week bringing home a paycheck that very seldom gets you a thank you. How many times we say to our children, make sure you thank Mommy for the nice supper she made us but how many times do we say, "Be sure to thank daddy for sweating all day welding at the factory where he works?"

LIST: Paul here lists the things he had to go through on behalf of caring for the souls of the Corinthians and other fledgling churches he founded. Can you imagine getting this as your job description: trouble, hardship, distress, beatings, imprisonment, sleepless nights, yet being patient, kind and understanding to all. Also enduring bad reports, being called an imposter, often forgotten and alone, sometimes at near death, helping others but being poor yourself except for the possessions we have from God ultimately in heaven.

PROTECTOR: That is the job description of the provider, the protector, the father of a family. In times of war the father is expected to go and fight as well. Being a father has its rewards but it also has serious responsibilities. And now we fight to make sure that our children are not indoctrinated in the schools with ungodly and immoral concepts as well. The battle over sexuality and the "critical race theory" that is being forced upon our children is really heating up and I am happy to say that fathers of all skin colors, dark and light, are standing up to those who would make us feel guilty for the skin color we are born with.

The job description of a father is primarily this: SELF SACRIFICING in ways that few appreciate.

III. FAITHFUL: SERVING WITHOUT RECOGNITION vss 11-13

2 Corinthians 6:11-13 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. 12 We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. 13 As a fair exchange-I speak as to my children-open wide your hearts also.

APPEAL: Paul is appealing to the Corinthians to please open their hearts and help support him in his ministry. Corinth was one of the richest cities of that day located on key road between two seaports where the wealth of the nations passed through. But it was one the weakest of all churches with serious immorality problems and a great lack of generosity to those who had done so much for them. They quickly exchanged their affections away from their founder and solid leader Paul and were attracted to people who were much more entertaining speakers but not sincere believers. Eventually Paul was deserted and alone in prison.

SAD: One of the saddest lines in Scripture is at the end of Paul's life of serving others, he is now in prison after his trial and awaiting his death for the crime of being a Christian leader: *2 Timothy 4:16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.* We also read a similar line in 1 Kings where the prophet is deserted after doing so much to lead the people in the direction of faith and righteousness: *1 Kings 19:10 Elijah replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The*

Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

IGNORED: Part of being a faithful father is serving without recognition, supporting your family with little recognition. Giving up many of your desires and dreams for the sake of providing food, housing and education for your children. Much is the same for mothers as well.

REWARD: But later in life, those same children often walk with you hand in hand through the last couple feeble years of your life when you can't take care of yourself. And the Lord looks with favor upon those who give up so much for the sake of providing for mom and the children and protecting them from harm.

REFLECTION: As I get old, I can look back on being a dad and smile at the thousand good memories that I would not trade for any riches or power this world offers. But I am also tired and can honestly say, once was good and once was enough and I need some rest now. Raising good families is a noble mission and heaven knows it is what our nation needs more than anything today. But don't forget, that even if there is not much thank you or sadly if there is even rejection and scorn from a mislead child or spouse that is hard to please, there is the approval of God for our imperfect but sincere efforts to be a Father. The Apostle Paul consoled himself in God's benediction on his life: ***2 Timothy 4:7&8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.***

OUR JOB DESCRIPTION FATHERS IS THIS: EVANGELIST, SELF-SACRIFICING AND FAITHFUL. It is a tall order but one we can do by the grace of God. I would like to close with an admonition from a great theologian and encourager in our midst, Arv Erickson, with some words that have helped me time and again, FOR OUR DADS: "KEEP ON KEEPING ON." And as the song says so well, "It will be worth it all when we see Jesus." Amen

HYMN #560 (AH) "Children of the Heavenly Father" (ALL VERSES!) 9 AM: No song here.

Children of the Heavenly Father
Safely in His bosom gather
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given

God His own doth tend and nourish
In His holy courts they flourish
From all evil things He spares them
In His mighty arms He bears them

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever
Unto them His grace He showeth
And their sorrows all He knoweth

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers
Your protector never slumbers
At the will of your Defender
Ev'ry foeman must surrender

Though He giveth or He taketh
God His children ne'er forsaketh
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER: *Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

BENEDICTION: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and grant you peace. Amen

DOXOLOGY & THREE-FOLD A-MEN 10:30 & 9 am "Doxology" OVH #32

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen, Amen, A---men.

POSTLUDE: Rebekah Olson

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