

SERVICE INFORMATION: May 14, 2023

Mother's Day

Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

MUSIC: Carol/Osthus

READER: Becky Kruse

THEME: Mother's Day: Practical gifts we can give to mom.

PRELUDE: Carol Gustafson

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 107:1-9

PASTOR: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

ALL: his love endures forever.

PASTOR: Let the redeemed of the LORD say this--

ALL: those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

PASTOR: Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble,

ALL: and he delivered them from their distress.

PASTOR: He led them by a straight way

ALL: to a city where they could settle.

PASTOR: Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unending love

ALL: and his wonderful deeds for men,

PASTOR: for he satisfies the thirsty

ALL: and fills the hungry with good things.

HYMN #381 "How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts"

CONFESSION OF SIN: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to

Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Gifts for Mom.

Reader: Becky Kruse

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Numbers 21:4-9 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; 5 they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" 6 Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. 7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. 8 The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." 9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.*

GOSPEL LESSON: *John 16:23-33 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. 25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world*

and going back to the Father." 29 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

31 "You believe at last!" Jesus answered. 32 "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

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 SONGS: songs chosen by Carol Gustafson

SERMON TITLE: "PRACTICAL GIFTS FOR MOM"
James 1:22-27; Pastor Tom Olson; May 14, 2023

Beloved, Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

SHOPPING: Today we are going to search for some gifts to give mom on Mother's Day. We are not going to go to a store or on line. We are going to go searching in the Word of God. James 1:22-27 lists several practical things we can do that will please our Heavenly Father and be great gifts we can give to our mothers. Some of us dads get caught up in career and hobbies but most moms find their greatest joy in seeing their children growing up to be men and women of God and a blessing to others. Let's talk about it.

I. GIFT #1: OBEY THE WORD OF GOD

James 1:22-25 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, BUT DOING IT-he will be blessed in what he does.

COMMANDMENTS: Very few things bless a mother as much as a good child who has a living faith in God. Very few things disappoint a mother as much as a child who lives in vice and rebellion. Mothers bear a great burden in their heart for their children and grandchildren. If we want to give our mothers a priceless gift, we start with a life built on the Word of God. We teach the children the Ten Commandments in order to give them a quality guide to follow in life. Let's note just the first four...

1. No other gods or idols: have faith in the one true God and in His Son Jesus our Redeemer.
2. Taking God's Name in vain: have good and uplifting speech. Don't curse or swear or tear people down. Be encouraging.
3. Sabbath day: go to church, hear God's Word, be an active part of God's family of faith. And use Sunday as a family day to visit and do things together as a family...this would make mom happy.
4. Honor your father and mother: obeying mom without complaint is a top notch gift to give her.

JOY: Perhaps you want to go through the last six commandments and follow them well in obedience to God and as a gift to mom. We can speak from experience that when our children and grandchildren joyfully walk with God it is one of the greatest sources of happiness to us.

II. HAVE ENCOURAGING CONVERSATION

James 1:26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

CONVERSATION: There is nothing that makes a home a more delightful place to live than encouraging conversation. A positive and happy attitude is what makes home heaven on earth. There are so many things we could say but we should not say. Here is a list that comes to my mind of gifts of our tongue that we can use to give our mothers today:

- Please, thank you, how can I help? can I get you something? how was your day?, you look nice, thank you for washing my clothes, I cleaned my bedroom, we picked up the toys, I would like to wash dishes so you can have a break, we saved up enough money to take you out to eat, I appreciate all you do for us, I want to vacuum the floor.

- Good words followed by helpful actions are tremendous gifts.
- We need to also work at not saying negative words like arguing a complaining.

Here are some verses to consider:

- *Philippians 2:14 "Do all things without grumbling or complaining..."*
- *Ephesians 4:29 "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."*
- *Psalm 34:1 "I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."*

Great gifts for Mom are 1) OBEYING THE WORD OF GOD, 2) HAVING ENCOURAGING CONVERSATION.

III. BE HELPFUL AND MORALLY CLEAN

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

ORPHANS: A final gift we can give our moms to make them proud of us and happy is to be HELPFUL AND MORALLY CLEAN. We especially need to be helpful to orphans and widows. Technically an orphan is a child who has parents that have died. Our little Alaska Mission used to have a children's home in Cordova Alaska. It was run by a wonderful lady from Tioga, North Dakota, who never married named Nettie Hanson. Miss Hanson dedicated her life to caring for the children of fishermen who died out in the ocean as they fished for salmon. Fishing is a very dangerous business and many men have lost their lives in the

cold arctic waters. But those kinds of orphans are not as common today.

TODAY: Today the orphans are so often children with absent fathers. I noticed at an area church that they have a ministry of fathers for the fatherless. I personally believe that caring for children who need a loving parent or grandparent figure in their lives is a very worthy ministry.

TEEN CENTER: The most dangerous time of day for children is 3 to 6 PM when they are home alone after school. Our church in Ohio had a program for these kids where we tutored, played games, had devotions, crafts, snacks and interesting life-skill presentations. Many children were rescued by this program. It is very similar to the Treehouse programs in this area.

NEIGHBORS: But it doesn't have to be a program, it can be as simple as taking an interest in a child in our neighborhood. They don't like to talk when they are with their peers, it is not cool. But when they are alone, they love the attention when you ask them about their sports or music or interests. I know that Joel Carrizales has had a burden on his heart for helping children who are behind on their mathematics to tutor them and then have a devotional time or youth group afterwards.

WIDOWS: And then there are the unending widows, single parents and lonely divorced men and women. Just go to Perkins and look at the lonely older people who come in there and buy a senior meal and sit and eat it all by themselves. A widow told me this week how lonely she is. When I was in college, I took on a young boy for a semester who had divorced parents and needed a friend. We just did stuff together and I tried to help him work through issues.

PURITY: Moral purity is a gift to give mom too. There is nothing that breaks a mom's heart more than a wild or immoral child, or one caught up in sexually explicit materials. Moral purity is big

challenge today: Media and even schools are promoting sexual immorality and experimentation. The sexualizing of children is the great crime of our time. Kids just need time to be kids.

STRATEGY: As our culture goes off the deep end in this area, it becomes a challenge to stay morally pure. Stay busy, "The idle mind is the devil's playground." Martin Luther recommended that you "work until bed time, and fall asleep praying...to keep from temptation." The children's song puts it so simply, "*O be careful little eyes what you see...O be careful little feet where you go.*" Parents do well to make their homes a hospitality center for their teens. Let them come to your house and keep them busy with good activities.

MEMORY: My girlfriend's mom in high school understood boys and she kept an eagle eye on me and did not allow me to be alone with her daughter very much. I didn't like it at the time, but I AM happy now that she was so strict. My life could have been much different if she wasn't. She was a good and discerning mother!

WEDDING: The other day, Sharon and I looked at an old video tape of our wedding rehearsal dinner and service. It was so fun to see all the people our age who were young and our parent's age, most passed away now. We were on a tight budget so my mom made the rehearsal dinner at the Cumberland parsonage for the wedding party. She was so proud to have her son marrying a nice Christians girl. That was a great gift that I gave to her. She loved having Sharon as a daughter-in-law. We had a lot of fun together. Moral purity, wise parents and God's grace made that gift to my mother possible.

These are gifts we can give we can give mom that will bring great joy to her heart:

- OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD
- ENCOURAGING CONVERSATION

- **BE HELPFUL AND MORALLY CLEAN**

JOY: When she gets together with her friends and can honestly say, “My family loves the Word of God and are so encouraging to me, they help me and live clean and pure lives.” This will bring her so much joy.

CROSS: And the place to start is to look to the cross where Jesus paid for our sins, confess the areas where we have not been doing right and believe in Him for the forgiveness of those sins. King David did that after committing terrible sins and the joy of the Lord returned to Him. Here is his prayer that summarizes all of what I have been saying. *Psalm 51:10-12 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation...”*

Now may the peace of God that passes all understanding, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen

HYMN #459 “Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak”

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

SONG: Chosen by Carol

POSTLUDE: Carol Gustafson