

June 15, 2025 Holy Trinity & Father's Day
Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church

PRELUDE: Ruth Antal (Osthus.Reynolds)

CALL TO WORSHIP: From Psalm 8

PASTOR: O LORD, our Lord,

ALL: How majestic is your name in all the earth!

PASTOR: You have set your glory

ALL: Above the heavens.

PASTOR: From the lips of children and infants

PASTOR: You have ordained praise

PASTOR: O LORD, our Lord,

ALL: How majestic is your name in all the earth!

HYMN #191 "This Is My Father's World"

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

HYMN #142 "Faith of Our Fathers"

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Something dads do: tossing children resulting in emotionally healthy adults.

READER: Carol Hoikkala

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Proverbs 8:22-31

*22 "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works,
before his deeds of old;*

*23 I was appointed from eternity,
from the beginning, before the world began.*

*24 When there were no oceans, I was given birth,
when there were no springs abounding with water;*

*25 before the mountains were settled in place,
before the hills, I was given birth,*

*26 before he made the earth or its fields
or any of the dust of the world.*

27 I was there when he set the heavens in place,

*when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,
28 when he established the clouds above
and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,
29 when he gave the sea its boundary
so the waters would not overstep his command,
and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.
30 Then I was the craftsman at his side.
I was filled with delight day after day,
rejoicing always in his presence,
31 rejoicing in his whole world
and delighting in mankind.*

GOSPEL LESSON: John 8:48-59 *The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" 49 "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. 50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. 51 I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." 52 At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" 54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. 55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." 57 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" 58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.*

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: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER

PRAISE AND WORSHIP: Chosen by Ruth Antal

SERMON: “GOD: FATHER, SON & HOLY SPIRIT” Acts 2:22-36
Pastor Tom Olson; Father’s Day 2025; mnvalleychurch.org

PROSPERITY: This morning, I got up and read the news headlines and one just jumped off the page and summarizes the root of our problems in America. Here it is: **“A FATHERLESS NATION CANNOT PROSPER.”** The relationship of a nation to their heavenly Father and earthly fathers is the root of stability, prosperity and happiness.

NECESSITY: One of the big concerns of social science studies today is the condition of the younger generation. With epidemic rates of depression, suicide, violence, gender confusion and chronic illness there is need for great concern. Many of the studies are finding that a key component of spiritual, physical and emotional health is the presence of a father in the lives of children. It is not necessarily that the dad has to be textbook perfect, just stable, present and decent. Fathers are extremely important.

RESTORATION: Father’s Day has been the topic on Faith Radio 90.7 this week. On Saturday on speaker was saying that if there is a wall between father and child, even adult child, we need to work hard at getting that wall broken down and the relationship restored. It is not just children that need fathers, but fathers need their children.

TRINITY: Trinity Sunday is a good day for Father’s Day because it points to the Father’s relationship with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Let’s

look at it from Acts 2:22-36, Peter’s Pentecost sermon about God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I. THE FATHER RESURRECTED THE SON

Acts 2:22-28 "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence."

EXEGESIS: As I reflected on these verses this week the theme appeared to me of **THE POWER OF THE FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP.**

Look at what these verses tell us about that:

1. The Father let the Son fulfill his difficult mission.
2. The Father didn’t keep His Son from danger.
3. The Father helped the Son when it was necessary. We see this when the Father raised the Son from the dead.
4. The Father helped the Son on to a path that was difficult in the short run but joyful in the long run.

DIFFERENCE: That study I heard about showed fathers tend to let their children experience touch challenges more than mothers. One man I knew from my internship some 35 or more years ago and I met at the annual conference this week and talked about driving tractors. His dad had Allis Chalmers tractors with hand clutches. These hand clutches allowed young people the opportunity to start driving tractors long before they could reach the clutch pedals. Sharon’s dad had one of those hand clutch tractors and I believe her brother started pulling a hay bailer and wagon when he was only about six years old with her dad piling bales on the wagon. I know Elijah could do it.

POINT: The point is that my friend thought it was great that kids could learn how to do real responsible work at a young age. His wife was, however, horrified by the story and thought it was a terrible thing to do. I tend to start kids out driving a lawn mower at age seven or eight, walking along side them until I am convinced they can handle it responsibly. The big thing is to teach them to keep looking ahead and not getting distracted.

FOREKNOWLEDGE: It says here that God had “foreknowledge” that Jesus would be nailed to the cross. That means God knew it before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Revelation 13:8 indicates that even before the world was made, God knew that Jesus, the Son, would be killed as a sacrifice for our sins. The New International Version calls Jesus the “...*Lamb that was slain from the Creation of the world.*”

RESURRECTION: God also knew in advance, according to this passage, that Jesus would not remain in the grave long enough to decay. He could also be called the “...*Lamb raised from the dead before the foundation of the world.*”

RISK: We can therefore deduce that God knew we would choose to sin and that we would need a Savior. God knew this even before we were born. We also know that as parents, having children is risky. They are going to sin and do wrong. But we also know that can come to Christ, be saved, be filled with the Holy Spirit and grow up to be mighty leaders in the Kingdom of God.

STRAYING: When children go astray, we need to thank God that the good work He began in them will be completed one day. God is our Father and He gives us the freedom to stray away. But He watches over us day and night and waits for us to return to the fold and get back on track with the plans He has for our lives.

JAIL: One of the most powerful experiences of my ministry was telling a scarred and tattooed and brute of a prisoner in the Carlton County Jail that he has a Father in heaven who loves him and wants to be the kind of dad he never had. That hardened criminal began to shake and beg me to know if that really was true. He wanted and needed a father and God promises and Revelation 21:7 to be our Father.

II. THE SON SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2:29-33 "Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

SEATED: When a son grows up a father gives him more and more responsibility. It says here that the Son, Jesus, has been exalted to the right hand of the Father in heaven. This is the position of power. Jesus is now the Lord of the Universe.

TRANSFER: Fathers eventually have to hand things over to their children. My friend I visited with at the conference this week said that he had two farms. He has now given the one farm to his son and the other farm to his daughter. His children must be about late forties or even in their early 50's. They both have proven to be faithful. The son has a family and was a Wycliffe Bible Translator for years and now works for the University of North Dakota. The daughter is married to a good man and they also have a family. Now they have control of the land that has been in their family for generations.

US: Jesus sends us, from heaven, the Holy Spirit. NOW THAT IS A TRANSFER OF POWER! That means that God Himself wants to dwell in our lives. The Holy Spirit lives in us. Christ in us is the hope of heaven. Peter went on to say to the people, “...repent and be baptized, each one, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” We have the gift of the Holy Spirit and that same Holy Spirit gives us special giftings that we can use to do mighty things in this world.

HEART: One of my desires is for my heart to be a place where the Holy Spirit is happy to dwell and manifest His presence. David wanted the same thing when he asked the Lord to not take the Holy Spirit from him in Psalm 51. He prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.”

CAMPFIRE: Last night, at our campfire prayer meeting, we took serious time to have God cleanse our hearts from sin so that the Holy Spirit could have a pleasing place to dwell.

REGRETS: There are times that our spirit is ugly with sin and we grieve the Holy Spirit. So many people who get old and have time to think regret the times that they let selfishness, anger, unforgiveness and bitterness grieve the Holy Spirit and those around them. One man whose wife died a number of years ago recently told me that when he lost her he had regrets in how he treated her. He had to force himself to focus on the good times they had together or regret would have consumed him.

PRAYER: I have had people tell me that they regret not coming to Bible study or prayer meeting. They regret letting other things get in the way of pursuing God in their life. Last night we had a powerful prayer meeting and I am sure some here regret not coming. With riots and murders in the metro, we need serious prayer over our church, home and family now more than ever. We need Divine protection. It is foolish not to take time to pray.

FEAR: Today is a good time to ask God to show us what is in the way of experiencing the full power, joy and peace of the Holy Spirit in our lives. For many people it is a "spirit of fear." Some people are so afraid of the wars and nuclear bombs and germ warfare that they can't live abundantly. The Holy Spirit wants us to live in faith not fear.

Psalm 91:4-7

4 The Lord...will be your shield...

5 You will not fear...

*7 A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.*

APPLICATION: Take serious time to pray that you might be filled with faith and the Holy Spirit and that sin would be far from you. THE FATHER RESURRECTED THE SON. THE SON SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT...

III. JESUS IS LORD AND CHRIST

Acts 2:34-36 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand 35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ' 36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

LORD: **JESUS IS LORD AND CHRIST.** Only a true believer can say, "Jesus is Lord." There is no ruler on earth that is powerful compared to Jesus. He is our Creator who gives us breath. Jesus raises up rulers and brings them down. He is the one who can make wars cease. President Trump said the Ukraine war would end on day one of his administration. It didn't happen. No man can do it. That is why we pray.

LINCOLN: *When President Lincoln was asked, "Is God on our side?" He made the wise reply, "Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side, my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right."*

TODAY: Jesus is Lord, His will is going to be ultimately done. His kingdom is going to ultimately come. But we pray that it will come to us today. We pray that His will be done among us today.

PLANS: God has plans for your life. God has plans for this church. God can do anything but fail. All we have to do is "trust and obey." But you can't trust and obey until you are convinced that

- THE FATHER RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD
- JESUS SENT US THE HOLY SPIRIT AND
- JESUS IS LORD AND CHRIST

NEWS: I have less and less interest in the news. It is mostly news about what men are doing and what the devil is doing. I am interested in the good news about what God is doing. Just saying these words is powerful: JESUS IS LORD! JESUS IS LORD! JESUS IS LORD! Satan flees when we say those words: JESUS IS LORD!

BRAZIL: On Thursday evening we went to the Association Retreat Center for the Mission service. Missionary Paul Abel preached and told us many testimonies of what God is doing in the lives of people he is

working with in Brazil. That is the kind of news that gives you life. Paul's mother, Ruby Abel, was there. She is well up in her mid to upper 90's. She was filled with joy and enthusiasm as she reflected on all that she has seen God do in the lives of souls that have been touched by Jesus in Brazil in her lifetime.

When I get older, I want to be filled with that my life has resulted in people getting saved by Jesus and set free from the power of sin by the Holy Spirit. I want to see this weekend a great outpouring of gratitude for our earthly fathers who have done their best to raise us up in the ways of the Lord rather than the ways of this world. **I PRAY THAT ALL OF US FATHERS WOULD BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND DO WHAT IT TAKES TO RECLAIM OUR NATION FOR GOD. Amen**

HYMN #625 "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Lord's Prayer
Benediction

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

Postlude: Ruth Antal