During the summer, pastor is preaching on a number of topics suggested by members of the congregation. Today's topic is about Fathers And Families - they really matter! Our Old Testament lesson reminds parents they have a sacred duty to teach their children about the Lord. "Talk about his commandments, constantly," it admonishes! Indeed the very beginning of Luther's catechism states his purpose in writing it, to teach children in the home: "As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his children"!

Our Epistle reminds children to be obedient, but warns fathers not to take discipline to the extreme lest he "embitter his children and they become discouraged." Our Gospel states the importance of bringing children to Jesus and the truth that a child can sincerely believe, even at a tender age.

Today is also Trinity Sunday, when we celebrate and proclaim the mystery of the Triune God. For that reason, this is one of those Sundays when we recite the lengthy Athanasian Creed (all true Christian churches adhere to the same three major Creeds: Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian). This Athanasian Creed has been used by Christian churches since the sixth century. It is the first creed in which the equality of the three persons of the Trinity is explicitly stated. It differs from the Nicene and Apostle's Creed in the inclusion of anathemas, or condemnations of those who disagree with the creed. It was specifically written to combat a pernicious heresy at the time that still exists today, a false teaching that Jesus Christ did not always exist but was a mere "creation" of the Father at some point in time, quite in opposition to the clear teaching of John 1 that Jesus was true God from eternity and nothing was made at the creation of the world without him.
PREPARATION

PRELUDE “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” Diane Bish

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN “Holy, Holy, Holy” LSB 507

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 8:1, 3–4

Pastor: When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
People: the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,
Pastor: what is man that You are mindful of him,
People: and the son of man that You care for him?
Pastor: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
People: You have set Your glory above the heavens.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: It is easy to sing God’s praises; it is more difficult to comprehend His eternal majesty. It is easy to look through a telescope; it is more difficult to look in a mirror. Let us go to our great Three-in-One God, confessing our sins.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and our sinful condition

Pastor: Heavenly Father, Creator of all that exists, in deep humility we approach Your presence, for though You shower us with blessings, we have rebelled against Your just reign over us and You.

People: We have sinned against You, one another, and even Your good creation in our thinking, speaking, and acting. Forgive us, and teach us again to be Your true sons and daughters.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, Savior sent from the Father, in deep humility we confess that we have neglected to appreciate Your great sacrifice, entering time and space to die for us.

People: We have failed to love You with our heart, soul, and mind, and we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to live as Your loving brothers and sisters. Those of us who are parents have failed to constantly speak of the Lord to our children and have
failed to follow all his ways as good examples to them. Forgive us, and grant us Your own determination to love You and our neighbors in Your name.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, giver of every good gift,

People: in deep humility we confess that we have let the faith You have planted within us to be covered with our own wants and desires. Without Your help we cannot be free; we are bound to sin. Forgive us, and renew in us clean and upright spirits.

Pastor: The eternal God, our Creator, Savior, and Sanctifier, has not forsaken us in our sin. For the sake of the Son, who became one of us to die for us, God offers full and free pardon. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

* WORD *

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace coming to us from beyond creation and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the peace of all people around the planet, for the well-being of the Church of God in time and space, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise to our majestic God let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “All You Works of God, Bless the Lord” LSB 930

(Verse 1, 4, 6)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Eternal God, Three in One, far above our comprehension but revealed as our Creator, Savior, and Sanctifier,

People: as we behold the vastness of space and diversity of life, the work of Your hands, grant us humble hearts to respond to Your grace in placing us on this good earth and then saving us from our sins through the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Pastor: who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-12

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. When the Lord your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you—a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant—then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM  Psalm 8; antiphon: v. 9

Pastor: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

You have set Your glory above the heavens.

People: Majestic is Your name, O Lord,

Seen in the earth and heav’ns above;

But mercy shown us in Your Word

Reveals to us Your endless love.

Pastor: Out of the mouth of babes and infants,

You have established strength because of Your foes,

to still the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,

the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,

People: A child with faith can silence foes!

For us this earth since time arose,
Blue marble in galactic space,
You made, in pow’r and boundless grace.

Pastor: What is man that You are mindful of him,
and the son of man that You care for him?
Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands;
You have put all things under his feet,
all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

People: You honor us, O Lord, that we,
Created ’neath the angel host,
Rule o’er the air and land and sea.
We only of Your grace may boast!

Pastor: O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

People: Majestic is Your name, O Lord,
Seen in the earth and heav’ns above;
But Jesus Christ, incarnate Word,
Confirms yet more: Your grace-filled love.

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Epistle Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.
VERSE  Isaiah 6:3b
Pastor:  Alleluia. Holy, holy, holy is the L ORD of hosts;
People:  the whole earth is full of His glory! Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:13-16
Pastor:  The Holy Gospel according to Mark the tenth chapter.
People:  Glory to You, O Lord.

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

Pastor:  This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People:  Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN  “O Give Us Homes”

SERMON  “Family Really Matters”  Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Psalm 127:1
ATHANASIAN CREED

Pastor: Today we are marveling at the grace of God in paying attention to us and saving us, although we are a seemingly insignificant part of His creation. The grace of God is also apparent as the Church has sought to confess the witness of Scripture. As we cannot comprehend the vastness of space, so we cannot understand God’s nature as three persons in one Godhead. We cannot explain God; we can only confess our faith within the limits of human understanding.

Pastor: Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

People: And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity,

Pastor: neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance.

People: For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another.

Pastor: But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

People: Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit:

Pastor: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

People: And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal,

Pastor: just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

People: In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty;

Pastor: and yet there are not three Almighties, but one Almighty.

People: So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God. So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord;

Pastor: and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord. Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

People: The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding.

Pastor: Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;
but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

People: Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

Pastor: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

Pastor: He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

People: Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

Pastor: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person. For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ,

People: who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

Pastor: This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

OFFERING “Crown Him With Many Crowns” Piano Duet
Anita Baresel, Lois Kreye
HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit called all things into being and now sustain all creation. Your triune majesty and the grandeur of creation humble us, Your fallen but forgiven creatures. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (Divine Service, Setting Four)


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”
LORD’S PRAYER  Matthew 6:9–13  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

Agnus Dei (Divine Service, Setting Four)

1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Deep River”  Piano Duet
Anita Baresel, Lois Kreye

“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”  LSB 622
Verses 1-4

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”  LSB 621
“Glory Be to God the Father”  LSB 506

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor:  The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  Numbers 6:24–26
People:  Amen.

HYMN  “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”  LSB 803
DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

POSTLUDE  “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”  Paul Manz

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT  Pastor John Larson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES  Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT  Gwen Geisler
YOUTH BAND  Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

ELDER  8:00  Norm Finfrock
10:30  Scott Luethy
LECTOR  8:00  Anita Baresel
10:30  Jeanette Nelson
ACOLYTE  8:00  Esther Langness
USHERS  8:00  Larry Nisbet, Members of the Congregation
10:30  Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation
SERVER  10:30  Les Young
ALTAR GUILD  Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Judy Peterson, Deb Shilet
FLOWERS  Charlotte Wilkinson, in loving memory of Tina Williams.

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