

**Rev. Charlie Holt:**

[01:00:05:20 - 01:00:41:01]

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, thank you so much for all of your blessings on this Father's Day. Holy Trinity Sunday, especially the gift of our fathers. We ask that you would pour out into our hearts as you promised in your gospel that spirit of truth that we might have our hearts illumined and our minds enlightened so that we would know the gift of your son, Jesus Christ in His name we pray, amen. Please be seated, welcome. Good to see you all, happy Father's Day. Happy Trinity Sunday.

[01:00:42:08 - 01:00:53:06]

My dad is a bit of a jokester. He will sometimes call the church office and he says, this is Father Charlie's father, Charlie.

[01:00:54:21 - 01:00:57:14]

(Congregation Laughing) May I speak with Father Charlie?

[01:00:58:18 - 01:01:00:19]

And he's done that for decades.

[01:01:02:16 - 01:01:04:04]

It's a joke that never gets old.

[01:01:05:16 - 01:01:12:22]

But we, very blessed actually that my dad has been, he's now a member of this church, been coming to church and it's great.

[01:01:14:20 - 01:01:24:15]

The gift of fathers and sons and daughters is sometimes a mixed one. Ultimately, we find our relationship

[01:01:25:17 - 01:01:43:09]

in the relationship with God the Father. And one of the best things that we can do as earthly fathers is really point to God the Father with our lives and our relationship with Him and help convey the truth of how that relationship should reflect and manifest.

[01:01:44:12 - 01:01:47:19]

To that end, I wanna encourage us to take a look at Psalm eight.

[01:01:48:19 - 01:02:01:11]

You can find it in the bulletin. It's the Psalm that we spent some time with. And Psalm eight is a musical piece. This is the song book of the nation of Israel.

[01:02:02:21 - 01:02:19:05]

King David actually wrote a lot of the Psalms in the Psalter. And Psalm eight is a praise song where David is extolling the greatness of the Lord at the beginning and the end, it starts with the same and

[01:02:19:05 - 01:02:44:05]

ends with the same words, "O Lord, our Lord, "how majestic is your name in all the earth." Verse one, in the bulletin it says, "O Lord, our governor, how majestic is your name. "You have set your glory above the heavens." And it ends the same way, "O Lord, our Lord, or our governor, "how majestic is your name in all of the earth."

[01:02:45:12 - 01:03:04:07]

The word Lord, you'll see there, is capitalized for the first one, and then the second is either governor or Lord. There are two different words in Hebrew. The first word is the proper name for God. So like my name is Charlie, as Father Charlie, as my dad would call me.

[01:03:06:01 - 01:03:17:12]

By the way, we have a fishing trip, which is a father-son fishing trip, but my dad calls it the father-father fishing trip. (Audience Laughing) I know, just so funny.

[01:03:19:05 - 01:03:20:05]

Dead jokes, right?

[01:03:21:17 - 01:03:46:17]

So my name is Charlie, that's my proper name or Charles, and God has a proper name. It's the name that was revealed to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the patriarchs. It's the name that when Moses was brought into the cave in Mount Sinai, and he's talking to God through the mediated presence of the burning bush,

[01:03:48:07 - 01:04:00:23]

and he says, the Lord says to Moses, "I'm sending you to the Israelites and to Pharaoh, to tell Pharaoh to let my people go." And Moses says, "Well, when I go to the Israelites,

[01:04:02:15 - 01:04:11:12]

what name am I going to give them, to let them know that it's their God that was speaking to me and to them?"

[01:04:12:13 - 01:04:49:00]

And Yahweh, he says, "Tell them Yahweh sent you." Tell them I am that I am, that is his name, Yahweh. So what this is saying is, "O Yahweh, our Adonai," which means Lord or governor or ruler or king, say it a lot of different ways, but basically what we're saying with the opening of this praise is, "Yahweh, you are our God, you are our king, you're the ruler of our hearts and our lives."

[01:04:50:01 - 01:05:10:09]

It's kind of like what our money says in God we trust, right? We don't believe in the money, but the money tells us who the king is of our country. It's God, it's in God that we trust, the national

motto. We believe in the Lord being the one who is our Lord, he is our king, he is the one who is my boss.

[01:05:11:19 - 01:05:38:06]

And this is a Psalm that reflects on the greatness of God in his majestic works. It's actually inspired several different hymns. One of the hymns that it inspired is not in our hymnal, but it's often sung at funerals and other occasions, but how great thou art. O Lord my God, when I an awesome wonder You know this one?

[01:05:39:08 - 01:05:48:17]

Consider all the works thy hands have made I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder

[01:05:49:22 - 01:05:54:01]

Thy power throughout the universe displayed

[01:05:55:02 - 01:06:24:07]

Then sings my soul Sing it, yeah. My Savior God to thee How great thou art How great thou art  
Then sings my soul My Savior God to thee How great thou art How great thou art

[01:06:25:08 - 01:06:39:04]

There's something about music, right? That gets our hearts stirring in a little different way. That's the gift of the Psalms, is these Psalms are actually songs that are to inspire us to praise and worship.

[01:06:40:06 - 01:06:44:21]

James is off on sabbatical, so this is the beginning of my music lessons for y'all.

[01:06:47:06 - 01:06:54:18]

One of the things that I'm hoping while James is gone over the next couple of months is that I'm gonna teach the congregation how to sing.

[01:06:55:19 - 01:07:00:13]

So when he comes back, we'll all be like professional singers, right?

[01:07:01:20 - 01:07:20:16]

It'll be a whole church of a choir. That would be awesome. But actually, that's not just awesome for James' sake, but that's actually awesome for the Lord's purposes and the Lord's sake. That the Lord, this is what the Psalmist say, that the Lord is enthroned on the praises of his people.

[01:07:21:20 - 01:07:45:12]

That it's when our lips give word and song and voice to the praise of God when we acknowledge that he is our king and we consider all the works and the wonders of his amazing handiwork and we say, "Oh Lord, you are our Lord."

[01:07:46:19 - 01:07:57:20]

How majestic is your name in all of the earth that when we say that, when we sing it, when we praise it, we are actually enthroning the Lord,

[01:07:59:16 - 01:08:43:11]

not just for the world, but we're actually doing it for ourselves personally. It's one of the reasons why I sometimes get a little sad when I see people not singing in church. And I know you probably had somebody tell you that you're not a good singer or something like that, or maybe you think that yourself, but the Lord wants you to sing. I mean, he wants you to praise and to lift up your voice unto him, because that's one how he is enthroned and that's also how Satan loses as well. That's how the evil one is disenthroned from our hearts and our lives, is when we praise him, we enthroned the Lord in our hearts and we disenthroned the evil one.

[01:08:44:16 - 01:09:01:20]

There's one of the wonderful things about Psalm 8 not only as we praise the Lord and we're reflecting on the majesty of his works and the awesome wonders as the hymn says, but one of the greatest of his works is humanity.

[01:09:03:05 - 01:09:09:18]

And so the psalmist is thinking about the incredible creation of God,

[01:09:10:21 - 01:09:15:23]

and at the same time, thinking about us and himself.

[01:09:17:00 - 01:09:52:02]

And where do we fit into the larger creation and what's the significance of us? And I wanna give you three Cs here, and this is to help me remember this because I tried to print out my notes for my sermon this morning and none of the printers in the whole church would work with my laptop, which I don't know what the problem is, but I said, "Well, just give me three Cs." So the first C is child and the second C is crown and the third C is commission. So that's how I'm gonna remember what to tell you.

[01:09:53:03 - 01:10:07:22]

So the first C, child, listen to this verse two. "Out of the mouths of babes and infants, "you have established strength because of your foes "to still the enemy and the avenger."

[01:10:09:03 - 01:10:28:23]

Now in your bulletin, that reads a little differently. It reads and it separates out what is one sentence and just two sentences. And I don't like to criticize translations of the Bible, but the people that did that particular translation were probably scientists and not poets.

[01:10:30:04 - 01:10:49:21]

And part of the problem that they were having, and it's a problem that people have puzzled about verse two, and three is that what it's basically saying is that out of the mouths of children, the praises of children, the enemy, Satan,

[01:10:51:06 - 01:10:53:23]

is being bound up and defeated.

[01:10:55:16 - 01:10:59:14]

And so the translators are going, "Well, that can't be what that means."

[01:11:00:15 - 01:11:04:03]

That children's praises are defeating Satan.

[01:11:05:10 - 01:11:07:22]

And so they separated it out into two sentences.

[01:11:09:04 - 01:11:33:21]

Tsk, tsk, tsk, don't do that. Well, that's what they did. I love, I mean, what the one that I'm reading out is the English Standard Version, which is more based on the King James Version. "Out of the mouth of babes and infants, "you have established strength because of your foes "to still the enemy and the avenger." In other words, to quiet the enemy and the avenger, the praise of children.

[01:11:36:00 - 01:12:01:09]

Now, this is actually a theme that is throughout the pages of the Scripture, that when Adam and Eve, they partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and they fell into sin and there were the curses, and you had the curse of Adam, which I think the way that it goes is something like Adam blamed his wife and his wife blamed the serpent and the serpent didn't have a leg to stand on.

[01:12:02:19 - 01:12:18:22]

(Congregation Laughing) Remember that? So Adam's curse for not taking responsibility and his sin was that he would have thorns and thistles and toil and his work would become futile and foolish.

[01:12:20:07 - 01:12:33:05]

Eve's curse had to do with childbearing and that there would be pain and suffering and childbearing. And so both of the curses were bringing futility and pain and suffering into life.

[01:12:34:14 - 01:12:37:02]

Well, then Satan's curse, the snake,

[01:12:38:21 - 01:12:54:06]

it was one, he would crawl on his belly and eat dust, not good for him, but then there was this interesting little piece of it that is sometimes referred to as the first gospel message in all of the Bible.

[01:12:55:14 - 01:13:18:20]

It goes something like this. This is in Genesis chapter three, if you wanna look it up, but it says that there will be enmity between the woman and the serpent. And this is why women don't like snakes. We actually had a member of our church that was stepping down off of her back porch and there was a snake and she jumped up and actually fell and broke her arm.

[01:13:20:12 - 01:13:26:01]

But women do not like snakes. And that's right there in the Bible

[01:13:27:01 - 01:13:43:03]

that there is going to be enmity between the woman and the serpent. And really it's a testimony that there is a war going on in the spiritual realm with us, where humanity is at war with Satan.

[01:13:44:09 - 01:13:59:12]

And then he says between her offspring and his offspring, her seed and his seed, there will also be enmity. So the children of the woman and the children of Satan will be in a battle with one another.

[01:14:00:16 - 01:14:04:08]

And then here's the first gospel, which is just beautiful, it's really cool.

[01:14:06:04 - 01:14:15:08]

He, the child of the woman, no, I'm sorry, he, the serpent, will strike the heel of the child of the woman.

[01:14:17:00 - 01:14:21:15]

And the child of the woman will crush his head.

[01:14:23:08 - 01:14:36:01]

So there will be a blow that is brought by Satan against the child of the woman. But the child will actually crush the head of the serpent.

[01:14:37:09 - 01:14:56:16]

Now, this is a promise that will bear itself out all through the pages of the Bible. This is a promise that gets repeated over and over again, that there will be a child that is born. Remember Isaiah, Messiah for unto us, a child is born, a son is given, you know, it's more singing lessons.

[01:14:58:07 - 01:15:07:20]

But he will be called wonderful counselor and mighty God and the Prince of Peace and the everlasting father. This child will be a Messiah that will come.

[01:15:08:20 - 01:15:28:02]

And he will be struck by Satan, but he will crush his head. I think this is one of those other prophecies about that, where it talks about out of the mouths of babes, the praises of the Lord will come, and it will be a defeat for the evil one.

[01:15:29:21 - 01:15:37:21]

Jesus, when he enters into the city of Jerusalem, riding on a colt and a horse, a donkey,

[01:15:38:22 - 01:16:13:15]

there is a praise that comes up from people as they're casting palm branches, Hosanna in the highest and they're praising the Lord. And there were children there that day, praising Jesus as he came into the courts of Jerusalem. And his first stop was the temple courts, where he went and he turned over the tables of the money changers. And some of the Pharisees were telling him, you need to shut these children up.

[01:16:15:04 - 01:16:28:02]

And Jesus quoted Psalm 8, out of the mouths of babes. We use it in our everyday parlance, don't we? Out of the mouths of babes. It's like, it was a funny, I'll tell you a funny story about my dad.

[01:16:29:06 - 01:16:46:23]

So this was when I was in college, a lot younger, and he's into fishing, as many of you know. And I was sitting at the breakfast table with him and my younger sister, 16 years younger than me, she was in, I think, four or five years old at the time. She was very, very young.

[01:16:48:01 - 01:17:00:09]

And he's going on and on about how great fishing is. Fishing is the greatest thing in the world. It's the best thing in the world. And my little sister says, no, it's not.

[01:17:02:03 - 01:17:07:05]

Oh, yes, it is, Becky. It's the best thing in the world. It's the best thing in the world. It's the greatest thing in the world. No, it's not.

[01:17:09:08 - 01:17:12:22]

And he finally, okay, Becky, what's the greatest thing in the world?

[01:17:14:03 - 01:17:15:16]

Prayer to God.

[01:17:18:01 - 01:17:20:00]

Out of the mouths of babes.

[01:17:21:04 - 01:17:31:22]

Right, there's something about the humility of a child that understands with the wisdom that is often lost on older adults.

[01:17:33:20 - 01:17:36:14]

That's what Jesus said, you have to have a faith like a child.

[01:17:38:05 - 01:17:56:08]

Now, that humility is carried through the rest of the psalm, actually, when he says, when I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, the stars, this is the verse that inspired how great thou art. When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, the stars, which you've set place,

[01:17:57:17 - 01:18:06:13]

what is man that you're mindful of him? I'm sure many of us have done this, where we've just kind of looked up at the Milky Way and you go, boy, I feel a little small.

[01:18:08:12 - 01:18:14:12]

And you might think that that's what would be next. What is man that you would be mindful of him?

[01:18:16:03 - 01:18:23:02]

We're just a little ant. We're like a little grasshopper, or as Darwin might say, we're just a little higher than the monkeys.

[01:18:24:07 - 01:18:29:17]

We're tiny, we're just a grain of sand compared to God. But that's not what the psalmist says.

[01:18:31:09 - 01:18:42:21]

What the psalmist says is, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? For you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings.

[01:18:45:06 - 01:18:49:03]

You have crowned him with glory and honor.

[01:18:50:05 - 01:18:53:21]

This is the second C, children crowned.

[01:18:55:01 - 01:19:02:23]

Crowned with dignity and honor and glory as those who are humble, yes, and we need to stay humble,

[01:19:04:03 - 01:19:10:02]

need to be in our place and recognize that it's the Lord is God and we enthroned him on our praises.

[01:19:11:03 - 01:19:25:15]

We are just children, but we are royal children. We are children made in the image of God, just a little lower than the heavenly beings, or in the Hebrew it's Elohim, a little lower than the gods.

[01:19:27:01 - 01:19:31:22]

We are royal princes and princesses of the king.

[01:19:32:22 - 01:19:46:17]

When we say in our baptismal covenant, we ask this question, will you respect the dignity of every human being?

[01:19:49:06 - 01:19:54:05]

One of the wonderful things about every single human being on this planet

[01:19:55:10 - 01:19:56:17]

is they're made in the image of God.

[01:19:59:12 - 01:20:09:04]

That's a way to be a human being. You think about people so much more differently than the way that the world looks at things.

[01:20:10:16 - 01:20:19:04]

You look at your children, your grandchildren, we often think they're just gifts and incredible delights. One of the things fathers love to do is brag on their kids,

[01:20:20:12 - 01:20:25:04]

but other people's kids are a little bit challenging for us, aren't they?

[01:20:27:09 - 01:20:28:14]

Those hoodlums.

[01:20:31:12 - 01:20:35:02]

The way we think about a neighbor

[01:20:36:13 - 01:20:39:01]

or even people from other parts of the world,

[01:20:40:01 - 01:20:44:18]

people that are different than us, every single person on this planet

[01:20:46:05 - 01:20:47:23]

is made in the image of God

[01:20:49:17 - 01:21:25:17]

and therefore royal in their design. Now that doesn't mean that human beings don't get corrupted and perverted and all messed up in the way that they manifest their humanity, they do. We become distorted in our reflection of God. We are broken mirrors. We are when we align our lives away from, oh Lord, our Lord, we become dark in our nature and our manifestation,

[01:21:27:00 - 01:21:45:10]

and we cease to manifest the presence of God in a very, very faithful way. But when we turn our mirrors back to the sun and we allow our lives to be reflective of this dignity that the Lord has placed us, and it gets us to the third sea, we are commissioned.

[01:21:46:11 - 01:22:07:22]

Listen to the way he puts it. You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings, crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion, you could say, command over the works of your hands. You have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen and the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

[01:22:09:08 - 01:22:44:01]

Our job as human beings is actually to steward this world. And but we're to do it as delegated authorities, people under the authority of the kingdom of God, under his rule, under his kingdom, with his marching orders and his purposes in mind. And when we do that, we actually steward the planet in faithful ways that bring blessing to the planet, not curse. When we steward things out of our own autonomy and we do it the way that we wanna do it, because we're the boss and thank you very much, Lord, but we'll make up our own way of ruling,

[01:22:45:02 - 01:22:59:21]

we corrupt the planet and we destroy it and we divide the people of this world and we harm the created order and its creatures and its care falls into disrepair and destruction. It's really that simple.

[01:23:01:17 - 01:23:11:01]

See the relationship between the divine and the human is supposed to be one of incredible intimacy and connection

[01:23:12:02 - 01:23:28:02]

where we are his royal images in his vice-regents that are charged with ruling over this world. And when we do it under that lordship of God, we do it faithfully. When we make up our own way,

[01:23:29:10 - 01:23:31:09]

that's when we get into really big trouble

[01:23:32:10 - 01:23:35:03]

and we start causing damage across the board.

[01:23:36:18 - 01:23:43:06]

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all of the earth. The last thing I'll end with is Psalm 8

[01:23:44:16 - 01:24:26:12]

is quoted a lot of times in the New Testament about Jesus, who is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him. Jesus referred to himself as the son of man. We often call him the son of God, but his favorite title for himself was son of man. And what he says of the son of man, he's actually quoting Psalm 8 and he's quoting Daniel. He's saying, "I am a human being. Yes, I am the divine son of God, but I have come among you with humility as a man, as a fully human, God from God, light from light, yes,

[01:24:27:17 - 01:24:39:05]

but born of a virgin, suffering with you in the midst of your pain." The writer of Hebrews would make Psalm 8 and make a deal out of Psalm 8. In Hebrews chapter two, he would say,

[01:24:40:11 - 01:24:51:15]

"The son of man was made lower than the angels for but a little while." That's the way he interprets it, for just a little bit lower than the angels for just a little while.

[01:24:53:05 - 01:25:12:14]

So that through that humility, he might empathize with us in our humility and our weakness and our finiteness in order that he might take us up into the heavenly realms and bring us to that place where he is seated above every power and throne and authority.

[01:25:14:05 - 01:25:15:09]

And that is our trajectory.

[01:25:16:17 - 01:25:24:22]

We suffer with Christ in order that we might be exalted with him. We are called co-rulers and heirs of Christ,

[01:25:26:06 - 01:25:27:06]

and heirs with him.

[01:25:28:19 - 01:25:41:20]

And so Jesus is the one who is the perfect example of Psalm 8, one who with his life, more than any other life, reflected a 100% submission to the Lord.

[01:25:43:02 - 01:25:50:23]

And also humbled himself lower than the angels in order that he might be crowned with glory and honor.

[01:25:51:23 - 01:25:55:07]

Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name and all the earth.

[01:26:13:02 - 01:26:14:01]

(Congregation Applauding)

[01:26:15:04 - 01:26:39:13]

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father.

[01:26:40:13 - 01:27:42:21]

Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven. By the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again. In accordance with the scriptures, he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

[01:27:48:13 - 01:27:54:09]

The prayers of the people are found on page 392 and it follows poem six.

[01:27:56:03 - 01:27:58:03]

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God,

[01:28:00:06 - 01:28:02:16]

for all people in their daily life and work.

[01:28:03:19 - 01:28:11:04]

For our families, friends, and neighbors and those who are alone. For this community, the nation, and the world.

[01:28:12:05 - 01:28:15:05]

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.