**FATHERS DAY June 15, 2025**

**Prairieland Parish**

*As we unite**in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God*

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***We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord***



**Prelude -Welcome - Announcements**

The world’s human community began with one man.

The redemption of humanity was wrought by one man.

Today, we celebrate the contributions of strong, godly men

to our community.

We celebrate men who, with the wisdom of Solomon,

seek God’s perfect plan for their lives and the lives they influence.

We appreciate men who, with the spirit of David, seek repentance,

as men after God’s own heart.

We acknowledge men who, with the obedience of Abraham,

follow God’s direction, help shape the lives of their families,

and ultimately change the world.

We honor men who, like Peter,

are fallible yet passionate about serving the Lord

and fervently building his Kingdom.

As Joseph cared for his father and brothers,

we care for the men of our community

by generously sharing our resources, our time,

and our unconditional love.

We pray for men who have the inner and outward strength of Samson.

We’re grateful for men who, like the apostle Paul,

teach us Christian principles and values.

Today, we celebrate men who strive in all things to be like Jesus,

exhibiting his character and his love.

**Call to Worship for Father’s Day**

Come to God who gathers us in.

**We come to God who nurtures us like a father.**

Come to God whose arms are open and waiting.

**We come to God who welcomes and forgives us.**

Come to God who journeys with us.

**We come to God who sees us as we really are and loves us anyway.**

Come, praise our loving nurturing God!

**Opening Prayer**

**Loving God, we give thanks for the men of virtue who have touched our lives.**

**Those who have shown us kindness, courage, generosity, truth, compassion, faith, and love. Bless all sons and brothers and fathers and grandfathers who reveal a glimpse of your loving presence on earth. Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE UMH #144 “This Is My Father’s World”**

Author: Maltbie D. Babcock (1901)

Publication Date: 1989

**1. This is my Father's world,**

**and to my listening ears**

**all nature sings, and round me rings**

**the music of the spheres.**

**This is my Father's world:**

**I rest me in the thought**

**of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;**

**his hand the wonders wrought.**

**2. This is my Father's world,**

**the birds their carols raise,**

**the morning light, the lily white,**

**declare their maker's praise.**

**This is my Father's world:**

**he shines in all that's fair;**

**in the rustling grass I hear him pass;**

**he speaks to me everywhere.**

**3. This is my Father's world.**

**O let me ne'er forget**

**that though the wrong seems oft so strong,**

**God is the ruler yet.**

**This is my Father's world:**

**why should my heart be sad?**

**The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!**

**God reigns; let the earth be glad!**

***We Hear God’s Word***

**New Testament Reading………………………………………………………………………Galatians 3:23-29.**

**New Revised Standard Version**

*23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous[a] by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27 As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, [b] heirs according to the promise.*

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**FAITH HYMN UMH #141 “Children of the Heavenly Father”**

Author: Caroline V. Sandell-Berg (1855)

Publication Date: 1989

Copyright: Trans © 1925, renewed 1953 Augsburg Fortress

**1 Children of the heavenly Father**

**safely in his bosom gather;**

**nestling bird nor star in heaven**

**such a refuge e'er was given.**

**2 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.**

**3 Neither life nor death shall ever**

**from the Lord his children sever;**

**unto them his grace he showeth,**

**and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

**4 Though he giveth or he taketh,**

**God his children ne'er forsaketh;**

**his the loving purpose solely**

**to preserve them pure and holy.**

**“Message”**

**Joys/Concerns**

**Father’s Day Prayer**

Almighty God of all creation,

we join our voices to praise you today,

singing of your wonders,

giving thanks for your grace and care,

and celebrating the joys of life you have blessed us with:

family and friends;

new relationships and deeper relationships;

new life and transformed lives;

reconciliation and restoration.

On this day we are especially grateful for the gifts of fathers,

the gifts of being a father.

and fathers that we miss.

We thank you for the many ways that our fathers have shaped us,

for their example and their love.

Yet we also pray for those

who have painful relationships with their fathers;

those who are estranged from their fathers

and fathers who are estranged from their children.

And, God, we pray for those who are unwilling or unable

to accept the responsibilities of fatherhood.

Gracious God,

all of our prayers are summed up in the longing for your kingdom,

that wonderful, amazing, and new reality that is emerging all around us.

So we join our voices together, God,

praying for the coming of your kingdom,

using the words that Jesus taught us.

Our Father…

**Offertory/Doxology/Prayer**

God, our Heavenly Father, in the power of gracious love, you reveal the meaning of parenthood. You bring forgiveness, joy, and laughter to earthly families where relationships are strained by sin. Thank you for your bountiful love as you listen and respond to our prayers. Accept these offerings as a sign of our thankfulness. May you bless the parents, children, and grandparents of our church so that we may be a blessing to our neighbors. We ask this through Christ, who blessed little children. Amen. (Psalm 116)

**Departing Hymn UMH #664 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”**

*Author: Omer Westendorf (1964)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Copyright: Words © 1964 World Library Publications, Inc.*

*Tune Information*

*Harmonizer: Leland Sateren (1972)*

*Copyright: Harm. © 1972 Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion*

[**http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/133.mp3**](http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/133.mp3)

**1 Sent forth by God’s blessing,**

**our true faith confessing,**

**the people of God from this dwelling take leave.**

**The service is ended.**

**Oh, now be extended**

**the fruits of our worship in all who believe.**

**The seed of Christ’s teaching,**

**receptive souls reaching,**

**shall blossom in action for God and for all.**

**God’s grace did invite us,**

**and love shall unite us**

**to work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving**

**to God ever-living,**

**the tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face—**

**our faith ever sharing,**

**in love ever caring,**

**embracing God’s children, of each tribe and race.**

**With your grace you feed us,**

**with your light now lead us;**

**unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living**

**with praise and thanksgiving**

**give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

**Benediction for Father’s Day**

**(based on Romans 8:15-16)**

As you go from here, remember this:

Because of the work of the Holy Spirit within us,

we are sons and daughters of God.

We have been adopted into his family;

God is truly our Father.

And if we are God’s children,

we are His heirs, and fellow heirs with Christ.

So go in peace and confidence,

knowing that the love of God, our Father,

the grace of Jesus Christ,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

goes with us.

**\*POSTLUDE**