

St. Christopher-by-the-Sea, Gibson Island, Maryland
Fourth Sunday of Pentecost, June 20, 2021 – Father's Day

Welcome and Introduction – The Rev. Charles Rowins

Hymn 558, stanzas 1-2

Faith of our fathers!

Opening Sentence: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Confession

*Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.*

Absolution

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Invitation to Venite and Psalm

O Lord, open thou our lips,

And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Venite - seated

O come, let us sing unto the Lord;

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving,

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth,

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his and he made it,

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth,

and with righteousness to judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 – see lesson insert

First Lesson – Job 38:1-11 - see lesson insert

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 - see lesson insert

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Hymn 559, stanzas 1-2

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

The Gospel - Mark 4:35-41

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon – The Rev. Charles Rowins

The Apostles' Creed - standing

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 Ghost,

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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer - seated

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 who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages - seated

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

And grant us thy salvation.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

And make thy chosen people joyful.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

For only in thee can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let thy way be known upon earth;

Thy saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

Collects for Sundays, 4th Pentecost, and Fathers

O God, who makes us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the days to come may be spent in your favor, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O God our heavenly Father, we ask your blessing on our fathers, those with us and those absent from us. We thank you for the shared love between parents and children. We thank you too for the forgiving love you offer us as we remember those times when we didn't show the love and respect due parents, and when parents fell short of our expectations and theirs. Help us to remember that, whatever our role in the family structure, it is best served when we are in concert with you. In your Son's Name, we pray. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.**

Announcements and America

My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing;

Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;

Protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them. Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Hymn 608, stanzas 1 and 5

Eternal Father, strong to save

Dismissal

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia.

Hymns for Father's Day - 4th Sunday after Pentecost – June 20, 2021

Hymn 558, stanzas 1-2

Father of our fathers!

Faith of our fathers! living still in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword:

O how our hearts beat high with joy, whene'er we hear that glorious word:

Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! faith and prayer shall win all nations unto thee;

and through the truth that comes from God, mankind shall then indeed be free.

Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Hymn 559, stanzas 1-2

Lead us, heavenly Father

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea;

guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee,

yet possessing every blessing, if our God our Father be.

Savior, breathe forgiveness o'er us; all our weakness thou dost know;

thou didst tread this earth before us; thou didst feel its keenest woe;
yet unfearing, persevering, to thy passion thou didst go.

Hymn 608, stanzas 1 and 4

Eternal Father, strong to save

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power, thy children shield in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to the gla*d hymns of praise from land and sea.

Lessons for 4th Sunday of Pentecost – June 20, 2021 – Father’s Day

Collect: O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Old Testament – Job 38:1-11

The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements – surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped.’?”

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

and his mercy endures for ever.

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim

that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.

He gathered them out of the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some went down to the sea in ships

and plied their trade in deep waters;

They beheld the works of the Lord

and his wonders in the deep.

Then he spoke, and a stormy wind arose,

which tossed high the waves of the sea.

They mounted up to the heavens and fell back to the depths;

their hearts melted because of their peril.

They reeled and staggered like drunkards

and were at their wits' end.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress.

He stilled the storm to a whisper

and quieted the waves of the sea.

Then were they glad because of the calm,

and he brought them to the harbor they were bound for.

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy

and the wonders he does for his children.

Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people

and praise him in the council of the elders.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

As we work together with Christ, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you. "See now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return – I speak as to children - open wide your hearts also.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon preached by The Rev. Charles Rowins at St. Christopher-by-the-Sea, Gibson Island, Maryland, 4th Sunday after Pentecost, June 20, 2021.

From today's Gospel (**Mark 4:38**): "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Good question, Jesus. After all, you just stopped a storm in its tracks with three words: "Peace! Be still!" If rescue from a storm was this easy, why would we be afraid of any threat? Just say to Jesus, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

A couple of observations.

First, Jesus was in the boat. The disciples were already with him. They had made the decision to follow this teacher. Did he invite them to accompany him on this journey across the Sea of Galilee? Or did they invite him? Well, at this point in the relationship, the disciples would have followed Jesus wherever he led them. They were on board, as it were. They were intrigued with this fellow. We can't be sure, but it's likely that Jesus asked them to accompany him. The point is simply that there was a relationship prior to this episode.

Second, for the disciples the Sea of Galilee setting was different from being on land. When the disciples walked with Jesus on land, the risk of a storm was not a factor. They could witness the healing of a person on the roadside without any risk to themselves. Whatever questioning came their way about Jesus was less

threatening on land than being in a boat with Jesus during a big storm. Circumstances are important.

And third, notice that for the disciples there was still some indecision about this fellow. They are confused to the point that they didn't yell "Help!" but rather asked, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Imagine being a disciple here. There had to be a pretty strong sense that Jesus could help if he wanted to. Thus they don't scream for help. They wonder what's going on. What is Jesus thinking? Why is he taking his time?

Jesus picks up on this less frantic approach from the disciples. His answer is as puzzling as their question. "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith? Not to worry. Rest assured, I will quiet this storm. All will be well." And the storm obeys. "Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm."

A really interesting episode. Certainly for the disciples. And I think certainly for Jesus. Which raises the possibility that this episode is really interesting for us as well.

I am quite certain that there have been times when our faith has been tested. "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Translation: "Do something, Jesus! Save me! Save us!"

Yes, there are those moments of desperation. And when salvation doesn't appear in the manner that makes sense to us, we leap to the conclusion that maybe our faith in Jesus is misplaced. We assume that we are in charge of "all will be well." And if the result is other than what we want, maybe Jesus isn't the one in whom we should be placing our trust.

St. Paul in his Second Letter to the Corinthians (**2 Corinthians 6:1**) addresses this apparent lack of trust in the Lord. “As we work together with Christ, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry.”

Here Paul acknowledges an apparent lack of trust based on things not going the way the Corinthians want. Doesn’t this sound familiar? If things don’t go our way, God must not be on our side. As if it is God’s responsibility to support you and me in our understanding of what God should do, even when that understanding is short-sighted.

It’s not our place to hold God accountable, though we do that all the time. Again, Paul addresses this condition. “We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. Open wide your hearts also.”

Today’s Collect makes the same point: “O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness.”

Today’s Old Testament lesson from the Book of Job is perhaps the strongest reprimand to you and me when we question God’s Love. (**Job 38:2**) “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.” Short version is: “I’m in charge,” says the Lord. “This is not debatable.”

Now, having set the record straight, namely that God is God and we are not, we must also acknowledge how tough it is to be in a huge storm on the Sea of Galilee and not be confident about God's ability in Christ to calm the storm.

There is a constant struggle between faith and fear. Our faith doesn't preclude fear. But our faith does put fear in the context of trust. This contextual effort is one of the biggest challenges for Christian people. Really deep faith is required to counter the impression that fear wins this battle.

Enter the Psalmist (**Psalm 107:26**).

They mounted up to the heavens and fell back to the depths;

their hearts melted because of their peril.

They reeled and staggered like drunkards and were at their wits' end.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress.

There is another way to frame this dilemma. If you and Jesus were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, and a huge storm began to toss the boat about, would you want Jesus to jump ship, or would you want Jesus to command the Sea "Peace! Be still!"

I'll take my chances with the Lord, thank you very much. And this is essentially what you and I do every time we gather and every day we share our faith. We fear, of course, including fearing the Lord. But our trust in the Lord is greater. And

that trust is our choice, which is a huge gift in itself. Our choice. Maybe God's second greatest gift, Jesus being the greatest.

Amen.