

Hebrews: Jesus is Better

**“Jesus is Better Than the Angels”**

June 26, 2022

**As We Gather**

Today we continue our worship series on the letter to the Hebrews. This letter is a written sermon to believers who were struggling with their faith. They were being tempted to go back to a life without Jesus, a life rooted in the unfulfilled promises and pictures of the Old Testament. The writer of this letter seeks to show them in many ways that Jesus is better, not only better than what they had before, but better than everything.

Today’s passage points out that Jesus is superior to the angels. So today we’re going to spend some time looking at what the Bible says about angels and what it means to say that Jesus is superior. Again, the Word of God will draw us to marvel at the wonderful Savior we have in Jesus. All praise be to Him!

**Welcome**

**Gathering**

**“Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake” LSB 688**

1 "Come, follow Me," the Savior spake,  
"All in My way abiding;  
Deny yourselves, the world forsake,  
Obey My call and guiding.  
O bear the cross, whate'er betide,  
Take my example for your guide.

2 "I am the Light, I light the way,  
A godly life displaying;  
I bid you walk as in the day;  
I keep your feet from straying.  
I am the way, and well I show  
How you must sojourn here below.

3 "My heart abounds in lowliness,  
My soul with love is glowing;  
And gracious words My lips express,

With meekness overflowing.  
My heart, My mind, My strength, My all,  
To God I yield, on Him I call.

4 "I teach you how to shun and flee  
What harms your soul's salvation,  
Your heart from ev'ry guile to free,  
From sin and its temptation.  
I am the refuge of the soul  
And lead you to your heav'nly goal."

5 Then let us follow Christ, our Lord,  
And take the cross appointed  
And, firmly clinging to His Word,  
In suff'ring be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle's strain  
The crown of heav'nly life obtain.

## Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with you there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.  
Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **"Just as I Am, without One Plea" LSB 570**

1 Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## Prayer

## Service of the Word

### First Reading: Genesis 28:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. <sup>11</sup> When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. <sup>12</sup> He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. <sup>14</sup> Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. <sup>15</sup> I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

<sup>16</sup> When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." <sup>17</sup> He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

### Second Reading: Hebrews 1:5-14

<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son;  
today I have become your Father"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son"?

<sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,  
"Let all God's angels worship him."

<sup>7</sup> In speaking of the angels he says,  
"He makes his angels winds,  
his servants flames of fire."

<sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says,  
"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions  
by anointing you with the oil of joy."

<sup>10</sup> He also says,

"In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

<sup>11</sup> They will perish, but you remain;  
they will all wear out like a garment.

<sup>12</sup> You will roll them up like a robe;  
like a garment they will be changed.

But you remain the same,  
and your years will never end.”

<sup>13</sup> To which of the angels did God ever say,

“Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet”?

<sup>14</sup> Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:47-56**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” <sup>49</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>52</sup> “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

<sup>55</sup> At that time Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ!**

**Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Sermon**

*“Jesus is Better Than the Angels”*

**Offering**

**Ministry Moment**

**Mission India**

**Prayers**

*Please add your prayer requests to the chat.*

**Thanksgivings**

**Pastor:** O Lord, we praise You.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Petitions**

**Pastor:** Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**St. John’s People and Families**

- Paul & Vicky Bartelt
- Carolyn Hintze
- David & Elizabeth McCracken
- Mark, Yvette, Melissa, & Tyler Morgenlaender
- Ron Yeske
- Jonathan, Charisma, Amelia, Benjamin, & Connor Berry
- Eric & Zoe Ewig
- Rick, Brigitte, & Savannah Healy
- Eric, Allison, & Crew Molinatti
- Ari, Erin, & Olivia Umutyan

## The Service of Holy Communion

### 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.**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**People: 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 forever and ever. Amen.**

### The Words of Institution

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."

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

**People: Amen.**

## Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

People: **Amen.** *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

People: **Amen.** *(Take and drink)*

## Communion Song

### “O Come To The Altar”

Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

#### Chorus

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy  
From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling **Chorus X2**

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't He wonderful  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before Him  
For He is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen **(X2)**

#### Chorus X2

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes  
Come today there's no reason to wait

## Communion Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

People: **Amen.**

## Prayer

## Benediction

### **"Christ Is Risen"**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that  
saved a wretch like me  
For I once was lost but now I'm found,  
was blind but now I see  
Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave  
Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave

The prodigal is welcomed home,  
the sinner now a saint  
For the God who died came back to life  
and everything has changed  
Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave  
Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave

O death where is your sting?  
O fear where is your pow'r?  
The mighty King of kings has disarmed you  
Delivered and redeemed, eternal life is ours  
O praise His name forever

#### **CHORUS**

Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave  
Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave

And all throughout eternity our song will be  
the same  
Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave

And on the day You call me in  
to heaven's sweet embrace  
I'll see Your scars, Your open arms, the beauty  
of Your face  
Through tears of joy I'll lift my voice in  
everlasting praise  
Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave

O death where is your sting? O fear where is  
your pow'r?  
The mighty King of kings has disarmed you  
Delivered and redeemed, eternal life is ours  
O praise His name forever

#### **CHORUS X2**

Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave  
Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave  
And all throughout eternity our song will be  
the same  
Hallelujah Christ is risen from the grave

### **Offering**

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

### **Memory Verse for This Week**

And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, He says,  
"Let all God's angels worship Him."

*Hebrews 1:6*

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / COPYRIGHT INFORMATION**

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**Serving in Worship Today**

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Gail Vandeburgt, Sharon Cornelius
Communion Assistants	Pastor Greg & Trudi Stringer, Mike Newton, Anne Heine
Sound Technician	Bill Clark
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Worship Preparation Team	Marlen Virkus & Ruth Peterson
Usher	The Loban Family
Projection Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Worship Band	Steve & Christi Jeffery, Tom Hoff, Steve & Judi Rock