

Hebrews: Jesus is Better  
**“Jesus is Better Than Drifting Away”**

July 3, 2022

**As We Gather**

We continue our study of 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.

In the opening words of chapter 2, the writer warns his readers – and us – that drifting away from the faith is a serious matter, with eternal consequences. May the Spirit call us and remind us through the Word of the blessings we have in our Savior, and so draw us to follow Him faithfully.

**Invocation**

**“In Christ Alone”**

In Christ alone, my hope is found.  
He is my light my strength, my song.  
This Cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest droughts and  
storm.  
What heights of love! What depths of  
peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings  
cease.  
My Comforter, my all in all,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless Babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid

Here in the death of Christ I live  
  
There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave He rose again.  
And as He stands in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His, and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns, or calls me home  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I stand

## Confession and Absolution

### “Lord, I Need You”

Lord I come, I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
And without You I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart

Holiness is Christ in me

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay

### Chorus

Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me  
Where You are Lord I am free

## Prayer

### Service of the Word

#### First Reading: Psalm 1

Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinners  
or sit in the seat of mockers.

<sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

<sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers.

<sup>4</sup> Not so the wicked!  
They are like chaff

that the wind blows away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 2:1-4**

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. <sup>2</sup>For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, <sup>3</sup>how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. <sup>4</sup>God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Holy Gospel: Matthew 7:24-29**

<sup>24</sup>“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

<sup>28</sup>When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, <sup>29</sup>because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ!**

## Apostles' Creed

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 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Sermon

*"Jesus is Better Than Drifting Away"*

## Offering

### **"Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus" LSB 685**

Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us  
And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading,  
Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love,  
Let us do our Father's bidding,  
Faithful Lord, with me abide,  
I shall follow where You guide.

Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
Where He is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
We shall reap celestial joy:  
All discomforts that annoy  
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe;  
Help me there Your joy to know.

Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction,  
Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in  
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die,  
There to live with You on high.

Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken.  
Jesus, You are now our head,  
We are Your own living members;  
Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly,  
Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be,  
Life eternal grant to me.

## 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

Jacob, Sarah, & Georgia Bartelt

Bill, Colette, & Domenic Hjerpe

Jeffery & Cynthia McFarland-Johnson

Ed & Sharlene Mulsoff

Todd, Natalie, Samantha, & Patrick Yoder

Giancarlo, Karyn, Matteo, Gianluca, & Dante Bettinelli

Audrey Nagle & Zoe Ewig

Grant, Natalie, & Hayes Hemingway

Brian, Nina, & Sebastian Montes

Anthony, Mary, Robert, & Constantine Valluzzo

### The Lord's Prayer

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.

### Benediction

**“Before You, Lord, We Bow” LSB 966**

1 Before You, Lord, we bow,  
Our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below,  
Boundless in pow'r and love.  
Our thanks we bring  
In joy and praise,  
Our hearts we raise  
To You, our King!

2 The nation You have blest  
May well Your love declare,  
From foes and fears at rest,  
Protected by Your care.  
For this bright day,  
For this fair land--  
Gifts of Your hand--  
Our thanks we pay.

3 May ev'ry mountain height,  
Each vale and forest green,  
Shine in Your Word's pure light,  
And its rich fruits be seen!

May ev'ry tongue  
Be tuned to praise  
And join to raise  
A grateful song.

4 Earth, hear your Maker's voice;  
Your great Redeemer own;  
Believe, obey, rejoice,  
And worship Him alone.  
Cast down your pride,  
Your sin deplore,  
And bow before  
The Crucified.

5 And when in pow'r He comes,  
Oh, may our native land  
From all its rending tombs  
Send forth a glorious band,  
A countless throng,  
With joy to sing  
To heav'n's high King  
Salvation's song!

**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

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

*Matthew 7:24*

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## Serving in Worship Today

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Lay Readers	Ruth Peterson
Communion Assistants	Anne Heine, Dove Bain, Mike Newton
Sound Technician	Bill Clark
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Worship Preparation Team	Bob & Doris Klein, Betsy Gewirz, Ruth Peterson, Marlen Virkus
Usher	Sal Pagano
Children’s Church	Sarah Santora, Kristi Carey
Worship Band	Thane Knutson, Steve & Judi Rock, Heidi Newman