

Hebrews: Jesus is Better
“Not Ashamed to Call Us His Brothers”

July 10, 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.

In Hebrews 2:11, the author of the letter reminds the letter's recipients that Jesus was not ashamed to call them (and us) His brothers. This is not just a "simile", but is in fact literally true. Though Jesus as the Son of God was (and is and ever shall be) fully divine, yet at a point in human history He became our brother, taking upon Himself our human form, flesh and blood, and our human nature, and lived among us as one of us for thirty-plus years as our "brother". Now, many of us have siblings, and even some extended family we may think of as brothers and sisters. But what are the implications that we have a Big Brother, a Better Brother, in Jesus Christ?

Welcome

Gathering

“Church of God, Elect and Glorious” LSB 646

1 Church of God, elect and glorious,
Holy nation, chosen race;
Called as God's own special people,
Royal priests and heirs of grace:
Know the purpose of Your calling,
Show to all His mighty deeds;
Tell of love that knows no limits,
Grace that meets all human needs.

2 God has called you out of darkness
Into His most marv'lous light;
Brought His truth to life within you,
Turned Your blindness into sight.
Let Your light so shine around you
That God's name is glorified
And all find fresh hope and purpose
In Christ Jesus crucified.

3 Once you were an alien people,
Strangers to God's heart of love;
But He brought you home in mercy,
Citizens of heav'n above.
Let His love flow out to others,
Let them feel a Father's care;
That they too may know His welcome
And His countless blessings share.

4 Church of God, elect and holy,
Be the people He intends;
Strong in faith and swift to answer
Each command Your Master sends;
Royal priests, fulfill Your calling
Through Your sacrifice and prayer;
Give Your lives in joyful service--
Sing His praise, His love declare.

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

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

C: who made heaven and earth.

L: 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.

L: 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.**

L: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" LSB 845

Where charity and love prevail,
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love,
By love are we thus bound.

Let strife among us be unknown,
Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek,
Be ours His holy peace.

With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love him in return.

Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined,
We are in Him made one.

Forgive we now each other's faults
As we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

For love excludes no race or clan,
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

Prayer

Service of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12

⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,

yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before her shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
And who can speak of his descendants?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After the suffering of his soul,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:5-13

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?

⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honor

⁸ and put everything under his feet.”

In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. ⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. ¹² He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers;
in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises.”

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:25-28

²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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

“Not Ashamed to Call Us His Brothers”

Offering

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

Mike & Judy Biggs
Kevin, Joy, Parker, & Carson Dahl
Stewart & Sandra Mehrens
Matthew, Elizabeth, Anthony, Isabella, & Abigail Munoz
Sal, Nancy, Sara, Zina, Caroline, & Sami Zaia
Silvio, Natalie, & Giovannoni Bettinelli
Aaron, Heather, & Layne Fishleder
Alexander, Lauren, & Felix Hesser
Kevin, Sheree, Collyns, & Kinley Moorhead
Cory, Katie, & Vince Wagner

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)

“What Is This Bread” LSB 629

1 What is this bread?

Christ’s body risen from the dead:

This bread we break,

This life we take,

Was crushed to pay for our release.

O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

2 What is this wine?

The blood of Jesus shed for mine;

The cup of grace

Brings His embrace

Of life and love until I sing!

O taste and see—the Lord is King.

3 So who am I,

That I should live and He should die

Under the rod?

My God, my God,

Why have You not forsaken me?

O taste and see—the Lord is free.

4 Yet is God here?

Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,

In mouth and soul

He makes us whole—

Christ truly present in this meal.

O taste and see—the Lord is real.

5 Is this for me?

I am forgiven and set free!

I do believe

That I receive

His very body and His blood

O taste and see—the Lord is good.

"My King Forever"

VERSE 1

You gave Your life for mine
Nailed to the cross You crucified
All my sin and shame
It was washed by Your mercy

VERSE 2

You are the treasure I find
My reason for living so let my life
Become an offering
To the One who is worthy

CHORUS

All praise to the Lord most high
All praise to the One who saved my life
All praise to Jesus Christ
High King of heaven my King forever

VERSE 3

You stormed the gates of my heart
The veil in between was torn apart
Now You hold the keys to the grave
'Cause You bring things to life
You roll stones away

CHORUS X2

All praise to the Lord most high
All praise to the One who saved my life
All praise to Jesus Christ
High King of heaven my King forever (Last x)

BRIDGE X2

I lift my hands up lay my whole life down
My whole life down before You
I lift my hands up lay my whole life down
My whole life now is for You

CHORUS X2

All praise to the Lord most high
All praise to the One who saved my life
All praise to Jesus Christ
High King of heaven my King forever

BRIDGE X1

CHORUS X1

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

“One Thing Remains”

Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant in the trial and the change
One thing remains
One thing remains

In death in life I'm confident and covered by
The power of Your great love
My debt is paid there's nothing that can
separate
My heart from Your great love

Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love

Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love

On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains
One thing remains

On and on and on and on it goes
It overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains
One thing remains

Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love

Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love never fails it never gives up
never runs out on me
Your love

(Your love)

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

But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because He suffered death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2:9

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Serving in Worship Today

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
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| Liturgist | Tim Kramer |
| Lay Readers | Megan Mathison, Michelle Roberts |
| Communion Assistants | Mike Newton, Rebecca Vitkus, Tim Huss, Dove Bain |
| Sound Technician | Joshua Wright |
| Streaming Technician | Martin Meissenhalter |
| Organist | Erin Blackwood |
| Worship Preparation Team | Betsy Gewirz, Marlen Virkus & Ruth Peterson |
| Usher | Missy Loban |
| Projection Technician | Sarah Kramer |
| Worship Band | Gabriel Gutiérrez, Scott Ondek, Jacob Bartelt, CJ Meissenhalter, Andrea Clark |