

Hebrews: Jesus is Better
“A Better Faithfulness”

August 14, 2022

As We Gather

Today we continue our worship series on the letter to the Hebrews. We also continue our focus on faithfulness. Last week, we considered the positive example of Moses. This week's text leads us to consider the negative example of the Israelites in the wilderness. Faithfulness is easy when times are good. How do we stay faithful when times are hard, when we find ourselves in the “wilderness” of life?

Welcome

Gathering

“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

One day every tongue will confess You are
God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now. **(Repeat)**

One day every tongue will confess You are
God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now.
(Repeat from beginning)

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

Come, Come, just as you are, Come, Come

Invocation & Confession and Absolution

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.

"Here I Am to Worship"

Light of the World, You stepped down into darkness,

Opened my eyes, let me see.

Beauty that made this heart adore You,

Hope of a life spent with You

King of all days, oh so highly exalted

Glorious in heaven above.

Humbly You came to the earth You created

All for love's sake became poor **Chorus**

Chorus

Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,

Here I am to say that You're my God

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,

Altogether wonderful to me.

And I'll never know how much it cost

To see my sin upon that cross **(repeat)**

Prayer

Service of the Word

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The LORD answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 3:7-19

⁷ So, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts

as you did in the rebellion,

during the time of testing in the wilderness,

⁹ where your ancestors tested and tried me,

though for forty years they saw what I did.

¹⁰ That is why I was angry with that generation;

I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray,

and they have not known my ways.’ ”

¹¹ So I declared on oath in my anger,

‘They shall never enter my rest.’ ”

¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. ¹⁴ We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. ¹⁵ As has just been said:

“Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts

as you did in the rebellion.”

¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of

Egypt? ¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned,

whose bodies perished in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did God swear that they would never

enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter,

because of their unbelief.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: John 6:60-69

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the

Spirit^[a] and life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷ “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

“A Better Faithfulness”

Ministry Moment

“Mission India”

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

Douglas, Terry, Mariah, & Douglas Braddock
Zachary, Kerrie, Nicholas, Ashley, & Stephanie Diviak
Tim & Lauren Huss
Caitlin Newton
Lloyd Zuehlke
Guillaume, Ashley, & Olivia Boudet
Jennifer Hefner, Marc & Nicolas Gallo
Andrew, Ali, & Mattison Holloway
Abe, Shayla, & Addison Newman
Morgan, Joanne, Sloan, & Pierce Zaninovich

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)

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" LSB 655

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;

Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

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

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” LSB 924

1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation

In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.

3 Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

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 encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so
that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:13

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Serving in Worship Today

Preacher

Rev. Michael A. Schmid

Lay Readers

Kristi Carey & Ruth Peterson

Communion Assistants

Rebecca Vitkus, Mike Newton

Andrea Clark, Dove Bain

Organist

Erin Blackwood

Sound Technician

Brian Schoenfeld

Streaming Technician

Joel Wahlers

Worship Preparation Team

Doris & Bob Klein, Betsy Gewirz

Ushers

Missy Loban

Projection Technician

Dawn Wahlers

Worship Band

Christi & Steve Jeffrey, Steve & Judi Rock