

Hebrews: Jesus is Better  
**“The Discipleship Diet”**

September 18, 2022

**As We Gather**

God expects us to grow as disciples – to grow in our knowledge of Him and in following Him in all circumstances. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews expresses this as moving from a milk diet to a solid food diet. What kind of diet are we on? Are we infants in the faith or are we moving toward maturity? May God bless us as He feeds us His discipleship diet.

**Welcome**

**Gathering**

**“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens” LSB 589**

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,  
Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me,  
Let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,  
Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor  
That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You  
And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You,  
Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord,  
Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin's burden  
You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living  
When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;  
On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light  
Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
And my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;  
Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me  
That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise,  
From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given  
In the endless joy of heaven.

**Invocation**

**Confession**

1

St. John's Lutheran Church, Napa, CA

### **“Confession”**

I confess to You, O Lord  
That I have sinned  
I confess to You, O Lord  
All my sin within  
I have failed to live for You  
In the things I say and do  
And have fallen short of living in Your love

Take us back to the water  
Wash away our sins  
Welcome us, O Father  
Back to Your home again  
Bless Your sons and daughters  
And let the feast begin  
Let it begin

### **Chorus**

Lord, have mercy on me  
Lord, have mercy  
Set me free  
O forgive me, Lord I pray  
And take my sin away  
By the cross and empty grave  
For my soul

### **Absolution**

You take us back to the water  
You wash away our sins  
You welcome us, O Father  
Back to Your home again  
You bless Your sons and daughters  
Now let the feast begin  
Let it begin

I confess to You, O Lord  
That I have sinned  
I confess to You, O Lord  
All my sin within  
I have placed myself above  
And have hurt the ones I love  
And I know that only You can set me free

Lord, Your mercy covers me  
Lord, Your mercy has set me free  
You’ve forgiven me today  
And my sins are washed away  
By the cross and empty grave  
For my soul

### **Prayer**

### **Children’s Church**

### **Service of the Word**

#### **First Reading: Psalm 24**

The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;  
<sup>2</sup>for he founded it on the seas  
and established it on the waters.  
<sup>3</sup>Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?  
Who may stand in his holy place?  
<sup>4</sup>The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not trust in an idol  
or swear by a false god.  
<sup>5</sup>They will receive blessing from the LORD  
and vindication from God their Savior.  
<sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek your face, God of Jacob.

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory?  
The LORD strong and mighty,  
the LORD mighty in battle.

<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.

<sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory?  
The LORD Almighty—  
he is the King of glory.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 5:11-6:12**

We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. <sup>12</sup> In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! <sup>13</sup> Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, <sup>2</sup> instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup> And God permitting, we will do so.

<sup>4</sup> It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age <sup>6</sup> and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. <sup>7</sup> Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. <sup>8</sup> But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

<sup>9</sup> Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. <sup>10</sup> God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. <sup>11</sup> We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. <sup>12</sup> We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Holy Gospel: Luke 8:1-15**

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; <sup>3</sup> Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

<sup>4</sup> While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: <sup>5</sup> "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."

When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked him what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup> He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

"though seeing, they may not see;  
though hearing, they may not understand.'

<sup>11</sup> "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup> Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. <sup>14</sup> The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. <sup>15</sup> But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

*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.**

**Ministry Moment: Mision de Jesus**

**Offering**

**“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

**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

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  
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  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

**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**

Matthew, Carly, Elena, Declan, Kelton, & Madeleine Bresee  
Michael, Lynn, Madison, & Shelby Edmeyer  
Ron & Lois Johnson  
Bob, Kari, & Madison Perna  
Rodney & Marie Skillings  
Michelle Buran and Lukas Johnson  
Mikhail, Tiffany, & Lev Gishizky  
Kenton, Marea, & Decker Johansson  
Jeffrey, Valerie, Rylan, & Declan Owens  
Rebekah and Blake Shaw

**Prayer**

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Benediction

### **"Rise, Shine, You People" LSB 825**

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has  
entered  
Our human story; God in Him is centered.  
He comes to us, by death and sin  
surrounded  
With grace unbounded.

See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;  
He brings us freedom, light and life and  
healing.  
All men and women, who by guilt are  
driven,  
Now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate, your banners high  
unfurling,  
Your songs and prayers against the  
darkness hurling.  
To all the world go out and tell the story  
Of Jesus' glory.

Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.  
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave  
us.  
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation  
His new creation.

### **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**

We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very  
end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.

Hebrews 6:11

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / COPYRIGHT INFORMATION**

CCLI License # 665004

All music used by permission

“Confession” by Michael A. Schmid © 2008 True Vine Music

“Lord I Need You” by Christy Nockels | Daniel Carson | Jesse Reeves | Kristian Stanfill | Matt Maher © 2011  
sixsteps Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Sweater Weather Music (Admin. by EMI Christian  
Music Publishing) Thankyou Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Valley Of Songs Music (Admin.  
by EMI Christian Music Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)  
CCLI Song # 5925687

**Serving in Worship Today**

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Sharon Cornelius, Hunter Bledsoe
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Tyler Roberts
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Projection Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Worship Preparation Team	Ruth Peterson, Marlen Virkus
Ushers	Bev & Clint Holdsworth
Children’s Church	Jeni Schluter, Gail Vandeburgt
Worship Band	Pastor Mike & Teresa Schmid, Steve Jeffery, Christopher Newman, Scott Ondek, Savannah Austin