

## Hebrews: Jesus is Better

# “A Better Hope”

September 25, 2022

### **As We Gather**

Christian hope is not wishful thinking. Rather, it rests on the character of God, who cannot lie. Far from being uncertain, Christian hope is an anchor for our souls in troubling times.

### **Welcome**

### **Gathering**

#### **“Hope of the World” LSB 690**

Hope of the world, Thou Christ of great  
compassion;  
Speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.  
Save us, Thy people, from consuming  
passion,  
Who by our own false hopes and aims are  
spent.

Hope of the world, God's gift from highest  
heaven,  
Bringing to hungry souls the bread of life.  
Still let thy Spirit unto us be given  
To heal earth's wounds and end our bitter  
strife.

Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,  
Showing to wand'ring souls the path of light,

Walk Thou beside us lest the tempting byways  
Lure us away from Thee to endless night.

Hope of the world, who by Thy cross didst save us  
From death and dark despair, from sin and guilt,  
We render back the love Thy mercy gave us;  
Take Thou our lives and use them as Thou wilt.

Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death  
victorious,  
Who by this sign did conquer grief and pain,  
We would be faithful to Thy Gospel glorious.  
Thou art our Lord! Thou dost forever reign!

### **Invocation**

### **Confession and Absolution**

### **“Lord Have Mercy”**

Pastor: In peace we pray to You Lord

**People:** Lord have mercy

Pastor: For Your peace and presence, love and mercy for all, we pray to You Lord

**People:** Lord have mercy

Pastor: For Your reign in the whole world, for Your life in our lives, and Your presence with us now, we pray to You Lord

**People:** Lord have mercy

Pastor: For all of Your people who gather to lift You praise, we pray to You Lord

**People:** Lord have mercy

Pastor: Help us and heal us, save us and bless us now

**People:** Amen

### **“Glory to God”**

#### **Chorus 1**

Glory to God in the highest  
And peace to His people on earth  
Glory to God in the highest  
And peace to His people on earth

Saving Lord Lamb of God  
You take away all the sins of the world  
Have mercy on us  
You reign at the right hand of the Father on high  
Receive our prayer

#### **Verse 1**

Lord God You are our King  
Almighty God and Father  
We worship Your name we give You our thanks  
We praise You for Your great glory

#### **Verse 3**

For You alone are the Holy One  
You alone are the Lord  
You alone are the Savior our Lord Jesus Christ  
And we worship and lift You praise  
With the Father above and Your Spirit of love

#### **Verse 2**

Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father

### **Prayer**

### **Children’s Church**

## Service of the Word

### First Reading: Genesis 15:1-21

After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,  
your very great reward.”

<sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

<sup>4</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> He also said to him, “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

<sup>8</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

<sup>9</sup> So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

<sup>10</sup> Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. <sup>11</sup> Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. <sup>14</sup> But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, <sup>21</sup> Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20**

<sup>13</sup> When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” <sup>15</sup> And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

<sup>16</sup> People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. <sup>17</sup> Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. <sup>18</sup> God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. <sup>19</sup> We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Holy Gospel: John 2:13-25**

<sup>13</sup> When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup> So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup> The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

<sup>20</sup> They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

<sup>23</sup> Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all people. <sup>25</sup> He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person.

*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 Hope”

## Offering

## Musical Offering

### “For the Beauty of the Earth”

*Sanctuary Choir*

*John Rutter*

For the beauty of the earth  
For the glory of the skies  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies  
Over and around us lies  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the joy of human love  
Brother, sister, parent, child  
Friends on earth and friends above  
For all gentle thoughts and mild  
For all gentle thoughts and mild  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise

For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night  
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r  
Sun and Moon and stars of light  
Sun and Moon and stars of light  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise

For each perfect gift of Thine  
To our race so freely given  
Graces human and divine  
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n  
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n  
'Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
This our joyful hymn of praise  
This our joyful hymn  
Our hymn of praise

## 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

Easton & Jessica Bresee  
Dean, Nancy, Robert, & Deana Ehlen  
Randy, Cindy, Sean, & Abigail Johnson  
Julie, Jordan, Jaeden, & Jacob Peterson  
Michael, Amy, Samuel, & William Smith  
Tim & Lukas Johnson  
Clark, Molly, & Beau Good  
Alexander, Crystal, & Elizabeth Jones  
Ben, Sarah, & Phoenix Perez  
Andrew & Blake Shaw

## The Service of Holy Communion

### Communion Prayer

#### 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.**

#### 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)*

**“O Christ, Who Called the Twelve” LSB 856**

O Christ, who called the Twelve  
To rise and follow You,  
Forsaking old, familiar ways  
For ventures bold and new:  
Grant us to hear Your call  
To risk security  
And, bound in heart and will to You,  
Find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve  
The truth for ages sealed,  
Whose words and works awakened faith,  
The ways of God revealed:  
Instruct us now, we pray,  
By Your empow’ring Word.  
True teacher, be for all who seek  
Their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who led the Twelve  
Among the desolate  
And broke as bread of life for all  
Your love compassionate:

Lead us along the ways  
Where hope has nearly died  
And help us climb the lonely hills  
Where love is crucified.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve  
On roads they’d never trod  
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim  
The nearer reign of God:  
Send us on ways where faith  
Transcends timidity,  
Where love informs and hope sustains  
Both life and ministry.

O Christ th’ apostles’ Lord,  
The martyrs’ strength and song,  
The crucified and risen King  
To whom the saints belong:  
Though generations pass,  
Our tribute still we bring,  
Our hymns a sacrifice of praise,  
Our lives an offering.

**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**

**“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” LSB 575**

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

**Refrain:**

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil. **[Refrain]**

His oath, His covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,  
He then is all my hope and stay. **[Refrain]**

When He shall come with trumpet sound,  
Oh, may I then in Him be found,  
Clothed in His righteousness alone,  
Redeemed to stand before His throne!  
**[Refrain]**

**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**

When God made His promise to Abraham, since there was no one  
greater for Him to swear by, He swore by Himself.

**Hebrews 6:13**

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**Serving in Worship Today**

Preacher

Rev. Michael A. Schmid

Lay Readers

Ruth Peterson & Gunnar De Young

Communion Assistants

Mike Newton, Joel Wahlers,

Tim Huss, Paula Schweiger

Organist

Erin Blackwood

Sound Technician

Christopher Newman

Streaming Technician

Joel Wahlers

Worship Preparation Team

Ruth Peterson & Marlen Virkus

Usher

Melissa Loban

Projection Technician

Dawn Wahlers

Children's Church

Kristi and Jack Carey, Nina Montes