

Hebrews: Jesus is Better

“A Better Life”

October 30, 2022

As We Gather

There are many forces around us and within us that would pull us away from actively following our Savior. But we have heard throughout this series all the ways in which Jesus is better than any other alternative. The writer pulls all of this together in a call to persevere in faithfulness in every circumstance.

This is an appropriate theme as today we also observe Reformation Sunday. The celebration of Reformation is a celebration of the Gospel and a call to persevere in the faith.

Today we bring to a conclusion the first part of our series on the letter to the Hebrews, “Jesus is Better.” We will continue this series next summer as we look at chapters 11-13.

Prelude

Sonate for Cornet and Piano Op. 18, Andante - Hansen

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Christ is Made the Sure Foundation” LSB 909

1 Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion’s help forever
And our confidence alone.

2 To this temple, where we call You,
Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all Your lovingkindness,
Hear Your people as they pray;
And Your fullest benediction
Shed within these walls today.

3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful
All the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from You, forever
With the blessed to retain;
And hereafter in Your glory
Evermore with You to reign.

4 Praise and honor to the Father,
Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit,
Ever three and ever one:
One in might and one in glory
While unending ages run!

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

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

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

Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father

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

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

Prayer

Children’s Church

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Psalm 46:1-11

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
³though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.

⁵God is within her, she will not fall;

God will help her at break of day.
⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.

He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:19-39

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

²⁶ If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of

grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” ³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. ³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷ For,

“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.”

³⁸ And,

“But my righteous one will live by faith.
And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back.”

³⁹ But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: John 8:31-36

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³ They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵ Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

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 Life"

Offering

Musical Offering

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burnin'

arr. Greg Gilpin

Choraliers

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burnin',
Keep your lamps trimmed and burnin',
Keep your lamps trimmed and burnin',
For the time is drawing nigh.*

*Soon I will be done with the trouble of the world
Soon I will be done with the trouble of the world
Soon I will be done with the trouble of the world
Time is drawin' nigh.*

*Children don't get weary
Children don't get weary
Children don't get weary
Till your work is done.*

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

Tony Carafa & Karen Schoenfeld
George Fleishmann
Debbie Kirkpatrick
Mike & Patte Quinn
Jane Terra
Casey, Cori, Aubrey, & Quinn Carlson
Melanie and Sophia Dal Cielo
Robin and Cameron Kimbell
Ryan, Amanda, Ronni, & Finnli Proctor
Jakob and Vivian Sweet

+ 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: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord, Lord God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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:

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.**

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)

“By Grace I’m Saved” LSB 566

1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain;
By grace you too will life obtain.

2 By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

3 By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

4 By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
So long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace--grace through His Son.

5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

“Christ is our Cornerstone” LSB 912

1 Christ is our cornerstone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.

2 Here may we gain from heav'n
The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n,
Be with us evermore

Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.

3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious name.

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

“A Mighty Fortress is our God” LSB 656

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.
- 2 With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is.
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.
- 3 Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.
- 4 The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Let these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

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

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Gunnar De Young, Ruth Peterson
Communion Assistants	Bob & Kari Perna, Rebecca Vitkus, Mike Newton
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Streaming Technician	Joshua Wright
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Ushers	Clint & Bev Holdsworth
Projection Technician	Bob Klein
Children's Church	Jenni Schluter, Joy Dahl