

Hebrews: Jesus is Better
“A Better Covenant”

October 9, 2022

As We Gather

Is my relationship with God based on my performance? Is His love and favor conditional on my faithfulness? The Bible clearly teaches that this is not the case for those who belong to Christ. We are not under a conditional covenant, but rather an unbreakable covenant of grace. Today we continue looking at Jesus, the better High Priest, who has brought about this new covenant.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“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.

Invocation

Confession and Absolution (from Divine Service IV, page 203)

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

People: **Amen.**

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

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: 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.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

"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: Exodus 24:3-8

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do."⁴ Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel.⁵ Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD.⁶ Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar.⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."

⁸ Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 8:1-13

Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

³ Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴ If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." ⁶ But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

⁷ For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. ⁸ But God found fault with the people and said:

"The days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

⁹ It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,
and I turned away from them,
declares the Lord.

¹⁰ This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel
after that time, declares the Lord.
I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

¹¹ No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

¹² For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

¹³ By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

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 Covenant"

Offering

*God is my rock, He is my strong salvation
He is my hope and I will trust in Him.
God is my fortress; I will not be shaken.
God is my rock, my strength; I will trust in Him.*

*God is my rock, He is my strong salvation
He is my hope and I will trust in Him.
God is my fortress; I will not be shaken.
God is my rock, my strength; I will trust in Him.*

*For God alone waits my soul in silence,
My only hope is in Him.
For He will save me from the time of trial;
God is my rock and my shield.*

*God is my rock, He is my strong salvation
He is my hope and I will trust in Him.
God is my fortress; I will not be shaken.*

God is my rock, my strength; I will trust in Him.

*For God has been our dwelling place
From one generation to another.
Before the mountains were made,
or the sea was formed
God was, and God is, and forever God will be.*

*God is my rock, He is my strong salvation
He is my hope and I will trust in Him.
God is my fortress; I will not be shaken.
God is my rock, my strength; I will trust in Him.*

*God is my rock.
God is my hope.
God is my rock, my strength, and my song.*

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

Richard & Karol Bruechert
Mike and Cathy Enfield
K.C., Aven, Arianna, Sophia, Zane, & Katya Kampton
Ruth Peterson
Steve & Debbie Stanhope
Ricardo, Brandie, & Nelo Gaires
J.C., Natalie, Andrew, & Grant Greenberg
Ryan, Andrea, & Dotty Duff
James, Lisa, Sylvie, & Thomas Peterson
Rodrigo, Mai, Lucia, & Florencia Soto

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.**

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)

"Amazing Grace My Chains are Gone"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains

Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” LSB 633

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his pierced side.
Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

Praise we him, whose love divine
Gives his sacred blood for wine,
Gives his body for the feast--
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in you shall rise.
Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured,
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe.
Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in you to be.
Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, paschal bread;
With sincerity and love
Eat we manna from above.
Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

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

“Living Hope”

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Chorus

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope **(X2)**

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus Yours is the victory **(X2)**

(Chorus x2)

Jesus Christ, my living hope
Oh God, You are my living hope

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

Then He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:27-28

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Children’s Church	Nina Montes