

Jesus is Better
“Eyes on Jesus”

June 18, 2023

As We Gather

We continue our series “Jesus is Better”, a study of the letter to the Hebrews. This letter is actually a written sermon to believers who were struggling with their faith. They were being tempted to go back to a life without Jesus, a life rooted in the unfulfilled promises and pictures of the Old Testament. The writer of this letter seeks to show them in many ways that Jesus is better, not only better than what they had before, but better than everything.

We come to the culmination of the “Hall of Faith” that we looked at last week. The list of faithful people concludes with Jesus. The writer encourages his readers to consider the great cloud of witnesses, but above all to set our eyes on Jesus. Jesus is not only the example of faithfulness; He is the means of our faithfulness as well; strengthening, renewing, enabling and empowering us to follow Him in faith.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Your Name”

As morning dawns and evening fades
You inspire songs of praise
That rise from earth to touch Your heart
And glorify Your Name

Your Name - let the nations sing it louder
'Cause nothing has the power to save
But Your Name

Chorus

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower
Your Name is a shelter like no other

Jesus in Your Name we pray
Come and fill our hearts today
Lord give us strength to live for You
And glorify Your Name **Chorus**

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

“Lord Have Mercy”

Leader: In peace we pray to You Lord

People: Lord have mercy

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

People: Lord have mercy

Leader: 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

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

People: Lord have mercy

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

People: Amen

“Glory to God”

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

First Reading: Isaiah 53:1-12

Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel John 12:23-29

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

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

“Eyes on Jesus”

Offering

Ministry Moment:

Mission India

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

James, Rita, Brian, & Kaylani Bresee
Linda Diviak
Ron & Judith Irwin
Florenca Palmaz & Nicholas Cromartie
Curtis & Theresa Schoenfeld
Jen, Clara, & Blake Bunker
Joseph, Sonyia & Leland Grabski
Greg, Stacy, Jack & Emma James
Jeffery, Valarie, Rylan, & Declan Owens
Jake 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.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: 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.**

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 Come to the Altar”

Are you hurting and broken within	Jesus is calling
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin	Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
Jesus is calling	From the ashes a new life is born
Have you come to the end of yourself	Jesus is calling
Do you thirst for a drink from the well	
Jesus is calling	Oh what a Savior
	Isn't He wonderful
O come to the altar	Sing alleluia Christ is risen
The Father's arms are open wide	Bow down before Him
Forgiveness was bought with	For He is Lord of all
The precious blood of Jesus Christ	Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Leave behind your regrets and mistakes	Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Come today there's no reason to wait	Tell the world of the treasure you've found

“God With Us”

Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love	Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
To be nearer to us	For Your honor and name
You've come to bring life to be Light	And You've come to take sin to bear shame
To shine brighter in us	And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us	Oh Emmanuel God with us

Chorus

Our Deliverer You are Savior	You are here
In Your presence we find our strength	You are holy
Over ev'rything our Redemption	We are standing in Your glory
God with us	You are here
You are God with us	You are holy
	We are standing in Your glory

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

“All Creatures of our God and King”

All creatures of our God and King

Lift up your voice and with us sing

O praise Him alleluia

Thou burning sun with golden beam

Thou silver moon with softer gleam

O praise Him O praise Him

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Thou rushing wind that art so strong

Ye clouds that sail in Heav'n along

O praise Him alleluia

Thou rising moon in praise rejoice

Ye lights of evening find a voice

O praise Him O praise Him

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Let all things their Creator bless

And worship Him in humbleness

O praise Him alleluia

Praise, praise the Father praise the Son

And praise the Spirit three in One

O praise Him O praise Him

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

O alleluia, alleluia

O alleluia, alleluia

O alleluia, alleluia

O alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Kristi Carey
Communion Assistants	Mike Newton, Paula Schweiger, Gerry Schneider Bob & Kari Perna
Sound Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Projection Technician	Sarah Kramer
Worship Preparation Team	Marlen Virkus & Ruth Peterson
Ushers	Gary & Marlen Virkus
Worship Band	Tom Hoff, Pastor Mike, Teresa Schmid, Andy Schweiger

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