

Following Jesus  
**“The Discipline of God”**

June 25, 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 letters seeks to show them in many ways that Jesus is better, not only better than what they had before, but better than everything.

The writer invites us to consider the hardships we endure as discipline from the Lord. The point of discipline is not punishment, but rather training in righteousness. Part of God’s love for His children is to discipline them, including through hardship, for His purposes, His glory, and our good. But what does this mean as we face hardship in our lives today?

**Welcome**

+ **Gathering** +

**“Come, Now is the Time to Worship”**

Come, now is the time to worship	One day every tongue will confess You are
Come, now is the time to give your heart	God
Come, just as you are to worship	One day every knee will bow
Come, just as you are before your God	Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Come	Who gladly choose You now.

One day every tongue will confess You are	One day every tongue will confess You are
God	God
One day every knee will bow	One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those	Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now.	Who gladly choose You now. <b>(Repeat)</b>

Come, now is the time to worship	Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart	Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship	Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God	Come, just as you are before your God
Come	Come

Come, Come, just as you are, Come, Come

**Invocation**

**Confession and Absolution**

## **“Goodness of God”**

I love You Lord  
Oh Your mercy never fails me  
All my days  
I've been held in Your hands  
From the moment that I wake up  
Until I lay my head  
I will sing of the goodness of God

### **Chorus**

All my life You have been faithful  
All my life You have been so so good  
With every breath that I am able  
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice  
You have led me through the fire  
In darkest night

You are close like no other  
I've known You as a father  
I've known You as a friend  
I have lived in the goodness of God

### **(Chorus)**

Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me  
With my life laid down  
I'm surrendered now  
I give You everything  
Your goodness is running after  
It's running after me **(Chorus x 2)**  
I will sing of the goodness of God

## **Prayer**

### **+ Service of the Word +**

#### **First Reading: Proverbs 3:1-12**

My son, do not forget my teaching,  
but keep my commands in your heart,  
<sup>2</sup> for they will prolong your life many years  
and bring you peace and prosperity.

<sup>3</sup> Let love and faithfulness never leave you;  
bind them around your neck,  
write them on the tablet of your heart.

<sup>4</sup> Then you will win favor and a good name  
in the sight of God and man.

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;

<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight.

<sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the LORD and shun evil.

<sup>8</sup> This will bring health to your body  
and nourishment to your bones.

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth,  
with the firstfruits of all your crops;

<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled to overflowing,  
and your vats will brim over with new wine.

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline,  
and do not resent his rebuke,  
<sup>12</sup> because the LORD disciplines those he loves,  
as a father the son he delights in.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Reading: Hebrews 12:4-17**

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. <sup>13</sup> “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

<sup>14</sup> Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. <sup>16</sup> See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. <sup>17</sup> Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel: John 15:1-9**

I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

<sup>9</sup> "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ!**

**The 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.**

**Sermon**

**"The Discipline of God"**

**Offering**

**"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"**

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory  
Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished  
I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no power no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

## 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, Madeline, & Everly Bresee  
Sigrid Dobat  
Derek, Danielle, Wyatt, Rhys, Laney, & Flynn Irwin  
Bob, Kari, & Madison Perna  
Brian Schoenfeld  
Michelle and Lucas Buran  
JC, Natalie, Andrew, & Grant Greenberg  
David, Alexis, Brent, & Blair Jessup  
Ben, Sarah, & Phoenix Perez  
Vivian and Sarah Sweet

### 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.**

### Benediction

#### **"Your Grace Is Enough"**

Great is Your faithfulness oh God  
You wrestle with the sinner's heart  
You lead us by still waters and to mercy  
And nothing can keep us apart

Great is Your love and justice God  
You use the weak to lead the strong  
You lead us in the song of Your salvation  
And all Your people sing along

#### **Chorus**

So remember Your people  
Remember Your children  
Remember Your promise  
Oh God  
  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough for me

Your grace is enough  
Heaven reaches out to us  
Your grace is enough for me  
God I see your grace is enough  
I'm covered in your love  
Your grace is enough for me  
For me

### 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

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

*Hebrews 12:11*

### Serving in Worship Today

Preacher

Rev. Michael A. Schmid

Lay Reader

Gunnar De Young

Sound Technician

Andy Schweiger

Streaming Technician

Martin Meissenhalter

Worship Preparation Team

Marlen Virkus & Ruth Peterson

Ushers

Penni Cremen, Sal Pagano

Projection Technician

Brian Schoenfeld

Children's Church

Tyler & Michelle Roberts

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