

Jesus is Better
“Honoring Marriage”

July 23, 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.

As we come to the concluding chapter of this letter, the writer turns his attention to offering practical guidance in living the Christian life. We are followers of Jesus; therefore, how should we live? Today’s focus is marriage, in particular that marriage should be honored. How do we honor marriage? What does that mean for us today, whether married or not?

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Dearest Jesus, We Are Here” LSB 592

1 Dearest Jesus, we are here,
Gladly Your command obeying;
With this child we now draw near
In response to Your own saying
That to You it shall be given
As a child and heir of heaven.

2 Your command is clear and plain,
And we would obey it duly:
"You must all be born again,
Heart and life renewing truly,
Born of water and the Spirit,
And My kingdom thus inherit."

3 Therefore we have come to You,
In our arms this infant bearing.
Truly here Your grace we view;

May this child, Your mercy sharing,
In Your arms be shielded ever,
Yours on earth and Yours forever.

4 Gracious Head, Your member own;
Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed it;
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne;
Way of Life, to heaven lead it;
Precious Vine, let nothing sever
From Your side this branch forever.

5 Now into Your heart we pour
Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.
Our petitions heav'nward soar;
May our hearts' desires be heeded!
Write the name we now have given;
Write it in the book of heaven!

Invocation

Baptism of Madelyn Michele Ondek

“A Baptism Blessing”

Verse 1

Welcome now
Welcome here
We welcome you into this family
The name of God
Upon your now
To say, “You belong to me.”
He is your God
And you are His child
Through every joy and sorrow
Come what may
And so we lift our voices to heaven to pray

Chorus

May the Lord bless your life
Bless you with the peace of Christ
May He ever guide your ways
And walk with you for all your days
May He fill your life with love
And ev’ry blessing from above
May His presence strengthen you
In ev’rything you say and do
May His light not only shine upon but shine
through you

And make of you a blessing to this world
May the Lord bless your life
Bless you with the peace of Christ
As today you’re baptized in His name.

Verse 2

Grace and mercy
Life and peace
These are His gifts to you today
Ever present
Ever near
To give His ear to ev’ry prayer you pray
Through ev’ry shadow
He’ll be your light
To guard you and to guide you on your way
From this moment until your resurrection
day **Chorus**

Bridge

Father, Son, Spirit, Three in one
This is the name given you today
Name of grace and love and mercy
The name in which we pray

Chorus

Prayer

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-25

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. ²²Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

²⁴ That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

²⁵ Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:4

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel: Matthew 19:1-12

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. ² Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³ Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?”

⁴ “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

⁷ “Why then,” they asked, “did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

⁸ Jesus replied, “Moses permitted you to divorce your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹ I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”

¹⁰ The disciples said to him, “If this is the situation between a husband and wife, it is better not to marry.”

¹¹ Jesus replied, “Not everyone can accept this word, but only those to whom it has been given. ¹² For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You O Christ!

Sermon

“Honoring Marriage”

Installation of the Board of Directors

Farewell and Godspeed for Matthew Wahlers

Offering

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
Dean & Nancy Ehlen
Randy, Cindy, Sean, & Abby Johnson
Terry, Melissa, Emily, & Brendan Peterson
Bret & Debbie Skillings
Corey, Casey, Aubrey, & Quinn Carlson
Ashley, Michael, Fairen, & Broder Daw
Andrea Duff & Ryan & Dotty Keith
Alice, Clinton, Payton, Avery, & Clinton Pridmore
Christy, James, & Tyler Rose Trumble

Benediction

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” LSB 790

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King
of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health
and salvation!

Let all who hear

Now to His temple draw near,

Joining in glad adoration!

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is
wondrously reigning

And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting,
sustaining.

Have you not seen

All that is needful has been

Sent by His gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully,
wondrously, made you,

Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly
falling, has stayed you.

What need or grief

Ever has failed of relief?

Wings of His mercy did shade you.

4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your
work and defend you;

Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily
attend you.

Ponder anew

What the Almighty can do

As with His love He befriends you.

5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in us
adore him!

All that has life and breath, come now with
praises before Him!

Let the Amen

Sound from His people again;

Gladly forever adore him!

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

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for
God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

Hebrews 13:4

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher
Lay Reader
Organist
Sound Technician
Streaming Technician
Projection Technician
Worship Preparation Team
Ushers
Worship Band

Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Ruth Peterson
Erin Blackwood
Andy Schweiger
Joel Wahlers
Dawn Wahlers
Betsy Gewirz
Gary & Marlen Virkus
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