

Jesus is Better
“Contentment”

July 30, 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.

In chapter 13 the author exhorts his audience to imitate Jesus in His life of love and service to us by loving and serving others, and living a godly life. One of the markers of faithfulness as a disciple of Jesus is living a life of “contentment”, trusting not merely in our own hard work, abilities and cleverness to get ahead in life, but above all trusting the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father too through faith in His Son, to provide all that we need for this body and life.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“10,000 Reasons”

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies

before me

Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger

Your name is great and Your heart is kind

For all Your goodness I will keep on singing

Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

And on that day when my strength is failing

The end draws near and my time has come

Still my soul will sing Your praise unending

Ten thousand years and then forevermore

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

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Proverbs 11:1-4, 24-26

The LORD detests dishonest scales,
but accurate weights find favor with Him.

² When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom.

³ The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.

⁴ Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.

²⁴ One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

²⁵ A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

²⁶ People curse the one who hoards grain,
but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:5-6

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

⁶ So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:19-24

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You O Christ!

The 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

“Contentment”

Offering

“Almighty God, Your Word is Cast” LSB 577

1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.

2 Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

3 Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.

4 So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.

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

Tom, Kristi, Rachel, Brett, Jack, Samantha, & Troy Carey

Robert Ehlen

Dustin & Brie Jones

Cindy, Whitney, Bryce, & Ella Powers

Rodney & Marie Skillings

Brian, Brittany, Kieran, & Cade Cassayre

John, Kate, Mae, Reese, & Lucy Daw

Bill, Meredith, & Alex Keller

Trevor, Alyssa, Sophie, & Alan Pridmore

Anthony Valluzzo, Mary Piasta, Robert & Constantine Valluzzo

+ 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

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 these last days, You have poured out Your Holy Spirit on Your Church that Your sons and daughters might proclaim the wonders of Your salvation in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon Your gathered people that, faithfully eating and drinking the body and blood of Your Son, we may go forth to proclaim His salvation to the ends of the earth.

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.**

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us

Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us

Lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Grant us peace

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)*

“God I Look to You”

God I look to You	Give me vision to see things like You do
I won't be overwhelmed	God I look to You
Give me vision to see things like You do	You're where my help comes from
God I look to You	Give me wisdom You know just what to do
You're where my help comes from	
Give me wisdom You know just what to do	I will love You Lord my strength
	I will love You Lord my shield
I will love You Lord my strength	I will love You Lord my rock
I will love You Lord my shield	Forever all my days I will love You God
I will love You Lord my rock	
Forever all my days I will love You God	Hallelujah our God reigns
	Hallelujah our God reigns
God I look to You	Hallelujah our God reigns
I won't be overwhelmed	Forever all my days hallelujah

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest” LSB 893

1 Sing to the Lord of harvest, Sing songs of love and praise; With joyful hearts and voices Your alleluias raise. By Him the rolling seasons In fruitful order move; Sing to the Lord of harvest A joyous song of love.	God fills them with His fullness, All things with large increase; He crowns the year with blessing, With plenty and with peace.
2 God makes the clouds rain goodness, The deserts bloom and spring. The hills leap up in gladness, The valleys laugh and sing.	3 Bring to this sacred altar The gifts His goodness gave, The golden sheaves of harvest, The souls Christ died to save. Your hearts lay down before Him When at His feet you fall, And with your lives adore Him Who gave His life for all.

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.

+ Sending +

Prayer

Benediction

"Blessed Be Your Name"

Blessed be Your name In the land that is plentiful Where Your streams of abundance flow Blessed be Your name	Blessed be Your name Blessed be Your name On the road marked with suffering Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name When I'm found in the desert place Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed be Your name	Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise When the darkness closes in Lord Still I will say
Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise And when the darkness closes in Lord still I will say	You give and take away You give and take away My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name	Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name
Blessed be Your name When the sun's shining down on me When the world's all as it should be	

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

But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

1 Timothy 6:8

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Ted Zimmerman
Lay Reader	Sarah Bartelt
Organist/Pianist	Erin Blackwood
Communion Assistants	Gerry Schneider, Joel Wahlers, Paula Schweiger
Sound Technician	Jacob Bartelt
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Projection Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Worship Preparation Team	Marlen Virkus & Ruth Peterson
Ushers	Melissa Loban, Sal Pagano
Worship Band	Steve Jeffery, Steve & Judi Rock, Andrew Schweiger

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