

Following Jesus
“Hospitality”
July 9, 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.

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? One of the ways in which our lives reflect God’s grace is the hospitality and kindness that we show others.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way” LSB 857

1. Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And, bending low, forgetting self,
Each serve the other’s need.

2. You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord,
But pow’r You laid aside.
You lived Your years in servanthood
In lowliness You died.

3. No golden scepter but a towel
You place within the hands

Of those who seek to follow You
And live by Your commands.

4. You bid us bend our human pride
Nor count ourselves above
The lowest place, the meanest task
That waits the gift of love.

5. Lord, help us walk Your servant way
Wherever love may lead
And bending low, forgetting self.
Each serve the other’s need.

Invocation

Confession and Absolution

"In Christ Alone"

1. In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

2. In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4. No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Prayer

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-15

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

³ He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. ⁵ Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

⁷ Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

⁹ "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

¹⁰ Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-2

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. ² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel: John 13:31-35

When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

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

"Hospitality"

Offering

"The Goodness of Jesus"

Verse 1

Come you weary heart now to Jesus
Come you anxious soul now and see
There is perfect love and comfort in your
tears
Rest here in His wondrous peace

Verse 2

Come find what this world cannot offer
Come and find your joy here complete
Taste the living water never thirst again
Rest here in His wondrous peace

Chorus 1

Oh the goodness the goodness of Jesus
Satisfied he is all that I need
May it be come what may that I rest all my
days
In the goodness of Jesus

Verse 3

Come and find your hope now in Jesus
He is all he said he would be
Grace is overflowing from the Savior's heart
Rest here in His wondrous peace

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

Cliff & Ellen Burmester
Hope Duden
Steve & Christi Jeffery
Janet Peterson
Charles and Elaine Scott
Ricardo, Brandie, & Nelo Caires
Jason, Rebecca, Colin, & Hannah Croft
Alexander, Crystal, & Elizabeth Jones
Steve, Michelle, Dugan, & Bear Perotti-Kline
Justin, Amber, & Marvin Tews

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

“Son of God, Eternal Savior” LSB 842

1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory,
For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.

2 As You, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted;
Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.

3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of Love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion,
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling,
By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing,
That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope’s fruition;

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

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ Each of you
should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:9-10

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Mark G. Heine
Lay Reader	Anne Heine
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Bill Clark
Streaming Technician	Joel Wahlers
Projection Technician	Bob Klein
Worship Preparation Team	Marlen Virkus & Ruth Peterson
Ushers	Bob & Lisa De Young
Worship Band	Sal Pagano, Thane Knutson, Steve & Judy Rock, Heidi Newman

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