

Jesus is Better

“Offering a Sacrifice of Praise”

August 13, 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.

The writer sums up his call to remain faithful in Jesus by focusing on sacrifice. Because of the blessings which are ours through the sacrifice of Jesus, we offer to Him a sacrifice of praise, lives lived to His glory and a blessing to others.

Welcome

+ Gathering +

“How Great is Our God”

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the End
Beginning and the End

The Godhead three in one
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God
Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God

Chorus

Invocation

Confession

I confess to You, O Lord
That I have sinned
I confess to You, O Lord
All my sin within
I have failed to live for You
In the things I say and do
And have fallen short of living in Your love

Chorus

Lord, have mercy on me
Lord, have mercy
Set me free
O forgive me, Lord I pray
And take my sin away
By the cross and empty grave
For my soul

Absolution

You take us back to the water
You wash away our sins
You welcome us, O Father
Back to Your home again
You bless Your sons and daughters
Now let the feast begin
Let it begin

Prayer

“Confession”

I confess to You, O Lord
That I have sinned
I confess to You, O Lord
All my sin within
I have placed myself above
And have hurt the ones I love
And I know that only You can set me free

Chorus

Take us back to the water
Wash away our sins
Welcome us, O Father
Back to Your home again
Bless Your sons and daughters
And let the feast begin
Let it begin **Chorus**

Lord, Your mercy covers me
Lord, Your mercy has set me free
You’ve forgiven me today
And my sins are washed away
By the cross and empty grave
For my soul

+ Service of the Word +

First Reading: Psalm 116:12-19

¹²What shall I return to the LORD
for all his goodness to me?

¹³I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful servants.

¹⁶ Truly I am your servant, LORD;
I serve you just as my mother did;
you have freed me from my chains.
¹⁷ I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the LORD.
¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD—
in your midst, Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:9-16

⁹ Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

¹¹ The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. ¹² And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. ¹³ Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. ¹⁶ And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel: Matthew 20:20-28

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

“We can,” they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

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

“Offering a Sacrifice of Praise”

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

Gisela Chaudhary
Darlene & Landon Elia
K.C., Aven, Arianna, Sophia, Zane, & Katya Kampton
Mike & Patte Quinn
Jeffery, Chelsey, & Stella Squibb
David, Emily, & Charles Ciabattari
Josue, Gina, & Leilani Delgado
Kaitlyn, Emma, & James Keyes
Belia Ramos, Liliana & Lucas Bennett
Justin, Melissa, & Ellie Waldrop

+ 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.

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.**

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
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait

Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling
Oh what a Savior
Isn't He wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before Him
For He is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

"You Are My Vision"

You are my vision O King of my heart
Nothing else satisfies only You Lord
You are my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping Your presence my light
(Oh oh oh) (Oh oh oh)

You are my wisdom You are my true word
I ever with You and You with me Lord
You're my great Father and I'm Your true
son
You dwell inside me together we're one
(Oh oh oh) (Oh oh oh)

You are my battle shield sword for the fight
You are my dignity You're my delight
You're my soul's shelter and You're my high
tower

Come raise me heavenward O Power of my
power
(Oh oh oh) (Oh oh oh)

I don't want riches or man's empty praise
You're my inheritance now and always
You and You only the first in my heart
High King of heaven my treasure You are
(Oh oh oh) (Oh oh oh)

High King of heaven when victory's won
May I reach heaven's joy O bright heaven's Son
Heart of my own heart whatever befall
Still be my vision O Ruler of all

Heart of my own heart what - ever be - fall
Still be my vision O Ruler of all
(Oh oh oh) (Oh oh oh)

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

"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

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of
praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess His name.

Hebrews 13:15

Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Hunter Bledsoe
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Communion Assistants	Andrea Clark, Gerry Schneider, Mike Newton, Paula Schweiger
Sound Technician	Andy Schweiger, Jacob Bartelt
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Projection Tech	Sarah Kramer
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Doris & Bob Klein
Ushers	Bob & Lisa De Young
Worship Band	Pastor Mike & Teresa Schmid, Tom Hoff, Heidi Newman, Steve & Judi Rock

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