

Jesus is Better

**“Blessing”**

August 27, 2023

**As We Gather**

We conclude our series on the letter to the Hebrews with the writer’s prayer and blessing for his readers. It is a blessing that God equips them and works in them for His good purposes, all to the glory of Christ. May the Lord so bless each of us as well!

**Welcome**

**+ Gathering +**

**“Earth and all Stars” LSB 817**

1 Earth and all stars!  
Loud rushing planets!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Oh, victory!  
Loud shouting army!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

**Refrain**  
He has done marvelous things,  
I too will praise Him with a new song!

2 Hail, wind, and rain!  
Loud blowing snowstorm!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Flowers and trees!  
Loud rustling dry leaves!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

3 Trumpet and pipes!  
Loud clashing cymbals!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Harp, lute, and lyre!  
Loud humming cellos!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

4 Engines and steel!  
Loud pounding hammers!

Sing to the lord a new song!  
Limestone and beams!  
Loud building workers!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

5 Classrooms and labs!  
Loud boiling test tubes!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Athlete and band!  
Loud cheering people!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

6 Knowledge and truth!  
Loud sounding wisdom!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son!  
Loud praying members!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

7 Children of God,  
Dying and rising,  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Heaven and earth,  
Hosts everlasting,  
Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

**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

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

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

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

Lord Jesus Christ only Son of the Father  
Saving Lord Lamb of God

## **Prayer**

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

#### **First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their mind and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

#### **Second Reading: Hebrews 13:20-25**

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>22</sup> Brothers and sisters, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for in fact I have written to you quite briefly.

<sup>23</sup> I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

<sup>24</sup> Greet all your leaders and all the Lord's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings.

<sup>25</sup> Grace be with you all.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18**

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

<sup>14</sup> "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

*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**

*“Blessing”*

**Offering**

**Musical Offering**

*“Shalom” by Dan Forrest*

*Sarah Kramer, soprano  
Sam Schneider, baritone  
Heidi Newman, violin  
Erin Blackwood, piano*

**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**

Bill & Susan Clark  
Matt, Lindsey, Riann, & Mac Engelbracht  
Debbie Kirkpatrick  
Kennith & Linda Reed  
Joseph, Amali, Alex, & Alexa Svien  
Brian, Ameris, & Ezra Cleary  
Brent, Katie, & Nora Dodd  
Devin, Jennifer, & Morgan Knell  
Sallie and Juliette Ramsey  
Timothy, Amy, & Brooklyn Wheeler

**+ 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)*

## “Who You Say I Am”

Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me

I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am

Free at last  
He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes He died for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

Who the Son sets free  
Oh is free indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am

**“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God” LSB 712**

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And His righteousness,  
And all these things  
Shall be added unto you,  
Allelu, alleluia.

Knock and it shall be opened unto you  
Allelu, alleluia.

Man does not live by bread alone,  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord  
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you.  
Seek and ye shall find.

**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**

**Blessing for Pastor Mark and Anne**

**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  
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

Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough  
Your grace is enough 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

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	Michelle Roberts
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Communion Assistants	Andrea Clark, Bob Klein, Mike Newton, Rebecca Vitkus
Sound Technician	Jacob Bartelt
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Projection Tech	Brian Schoenfeld
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Doris & Bob Klein
Ushers	Gary & Marlen Virkus
Worship Band	Steve Jeffery, Steve & Judi Rock, Tom Hoff

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS / COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

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