

# "Rejoicing In Suffering"

February 25, 2024

## As We Gather

Paul calls his readers to rejoice in suffering. How can we do that? What does this mean as we are going through hard times in our lives? How does my life in Christ prepare me for such times, and carry me through those seasons?

## Welcome

+ Gathering +

### "Let us Ever Walk With Jesus" LSB 685

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,  
Follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us  
And to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading,  
Pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love,  
Let us do our Father's bidding,  
Faithful Lord, with me abide,  
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus,  
And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness;  
Where He is there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
We shall reap celestial joy:  
All discomforts that annoy  
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe;  
Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction,  
Give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion  
That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in  
Shall but prove the gate of heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die,  
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken.  
Jesus, You are now our head,  
We are Your own living members;  
Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly,  
Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be;  
Life eternal grant to me.

## 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, I Need You"**

Lord I come I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
And without You I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart

Lord I need You, oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me  
Where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay

Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You

### **Prayer**

### **Children's Church**

+ Service of the Word +

**First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup> Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

<sup>3</sup> Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup> “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup> No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup> I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup> I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Psalms 22:23-31 (Read responsively)**

**Reader:** You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!  
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

**People:** **For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**

**Reader:** From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

**People:** **The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever!**

**Reader:** All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

**People:** **for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.**

**Reader:** All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him— those who cannot keep themselves alive.

**People:** **Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.**

**Reader:** They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

**All:** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

**Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11 (ESV)**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Holy Gospel: Mark 8:27-38**

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?"

<sup>28</sup> They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

<sup>29</sup> "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

*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

### “Rejoicing in Suffering”

## Commissioning a Stephen Ministry Leader

## 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

Cynthia Bauer and David Martinez

James and Nancy Henry

Carolyn Hintze

David & Rebecca Newman

Ronald Yeske

Michelle and Lukas Buran

Sam, Maureen, Clayton, & Elise Hall

Stacy and Liam lund

Donal, Karina, Clodagh, Eamonn, & Cian O'Briain

Rodrigo, Mai Lucia, & Florencia Soto

## + The Service of Holy Communion +

### Communion Prayer

#### 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.

#### 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

#### "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

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

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

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 twice

##### Chorus

Sing like never before, O my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

**“My Song is Love Unknown” LSB 430**

1 My song is love unknown,  
My Savior’s love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I  
That for my sake  
My Lord should take  
Frail flesh and die?

2 He came from His blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know.  
But, oh, my friend,  
My Friend indeed,  
Who at my need  
His life did spend!

3 Sometimes they strew His way  
And His sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King.  
Then “Crucify!”  
Is all their breath,  
And for His death  
They thirst and cry.

4 Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight.

Sweet injuries!  
Yet they at these  
Themselves displease  
And 'gainst Him rise.

5 They rise and needs will have  
My dear Lord made away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet cheerful He  
To suff'ring goes  
That He His foes  
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say?  
Heav'n was His home  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days  
Could gladly spend!

**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**

**"Lift High the Cross" LSB 837**

**Chorus**

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ  
proclaim,  
Till all the world adore His sacred name

Come, Christians, follow where our captain  
trode,  
Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

**Chorus**

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks  
combine. **Chorus**

All newborn soldiers of the crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him Who  
died. **Chorus**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
Raise us, and let Your cross the magnet be.  
**Chorus**

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory!  
**Chorus**

**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**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have  
peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Philippians 2:3-4*

## Serving in Worship Today

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Reader	Gunnar De Young
Communion Assistants	Mike Newton, Gerry Schneider, Dove Bain, Rebecca Vitkus
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Sound Technician	Jacob Bartelt
Streaming Technician	Martin Meissenhalter
Projector Tech	Sarah Kramer
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Children's Church Leaders	Sarah Santora & Kevin Mathison
Ushers	Steve & Christy Wood
Worship Band	Steve Jeffery

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