

## **HOPE: Where Hope is Found**

April 28, 2024

### **As We Gather**

How do we live as citizens of heaven while also citizens of our earthly nation? How do we keep Christ at the center when our country is going through a contentious election season? How do we treat others, especially those with whom we disagree? How do we keep our ultimate allegiance to Christ when our nation is divided on so many issues? How do I respond to news that worries me, disgusts me, or alarms me? Where do I find hope in difficult times?

Today is the third part of this three-week series. We have been focusing on teachings that are always true, but that are especially applicable and relevant during this time.

Today we focus on HOPE. Christian hope is solid and certain. Nothing can take away the spiritual blessings we now enjoy and the ultimate blessings that will be ours in the resurrection. Therefore we do not lose heart no matter what may happen in our earthly lives. This applies also to the outcome of elections. They may be important, but not of ultimate importance. Ultimate importance belongs to Christ alone.

### **Welcome**

**+ Gathering +**

#### **“All Who Believe and Are Baptized” LSB 601**

1 All who believe and are baptized  
Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation.  
Through Christ's redemption they shall  
stand  
Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.

2 With one accord, O God, we pray:  
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.  
Help us in our infirmity  
Through Jesus' blood and merit.  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
That by this sacrament we may  
Eternal life inherit.

### **Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### **Baptism of Reese Kate Chagonjian**

### **Prayer**

### **Children's Church**

+ Service of the Word +

**First Reading: Acts 5:27-39**

<sup>27</sup>The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. <sup>28</sup>“We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

<sup>29</sup>Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. <sup>32</sup>We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

<sup>33</sup>When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. <sup>34</sup>But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. <sup>35</sup>Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. <sup>36</sup>Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. <sup>37</sup>After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. <sup>38</sup>Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. <sup>39</sup>But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm 146 (Read Responsively)**

Reader: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, my soul.

**People: I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Reader: Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

**People: When their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.**

Reader: Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.

**People: He is the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—he remains faithful forever.**

Reader: He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets prisoners free,

**People: the LORD gives sight to the blind, the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.**

Reader: The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**People: The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.**

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

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34**

<sup>25</sup> "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

<sup>28</sup> "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to You O Christ!**

**Sermon**

**"Where Hope is Found"**

**Offering**

Lord, I believe, Lord, I believe,  
Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.  
As I believe, shall I receive.  
Lord, help my unbelief,  
Help my unbelief.

A father cried to Jesus,  
“Can you heal my only son?”  
Jesus said, “If you will just believe,  
Then it shall be done.”  
The father cried, “I do believe,  
Help my unbelief.”  
Help my unbelief,  
Help my unbelief.

Lord, I believe, Lord, I believe,  
Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.  
As I believe, so shall I receive.  
Lord, help my unbelief,  
Help my unbelief.

All things are possible  
To the one who believes.  
All things are possible,

Lord, help my unbelief,  
Help my unbelief.

Lord, I believe, Lord, I believe,  
Lord, I believe, help my unbelief.  
I will say to the mountain,  
“Be cast into the sea.”  
When I trust, without doubting,  
Then shall I receive.  
Jesus hears when I call Him,  
He’ll meet ev’ry need.  
Lord, help my unbelief.

Lord, I believe,  
All things are possible,  
Help my unbelief.  
Lord, I believe,  
All things are possible,  
Help my unbelief.

Lord, I believe.  
Lord, I believe!

**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**

Easton & Jessica Bresee  
Michael, Lynn, Madison, & Shelby Edmeyer  
Ron & Judith Irwin  
Bob, Kari, & Madison Perna  
Brian Schoenfeld  
Brian, Brittany, Kieran, & Cade Cassayre  
John, Rikke, Callyn, & Kensley Cortese  
Ryan Keith, Andrea Duff, & Nellie Keith  
James Thomas, Lisa Zinna, Sylvie & Thomas Peterson  
Anthony Valluzzo, Mary Piasta, Robert, Constantine, &  
Violette 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.**

### Communion Prayer

#### 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

#### "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" LSB 633

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing<br>Praise to our victorious King,<br>Who has washed us in the tide<br>Flowing from His pierced side.<br>Alleluia!           | Through the wave that drowns the foe.<br>Alleluia!   |
| 2 Praise we Him, whose love divine<br>Gives His sacred blood for wine,<br>Gives His Body for the feast--<br>Christ the victim, Christ the priest.<br>Alleluia! | 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,<br>Paschal victim, paschal bread;<br>With sincerity and love<br>Eat we manna from above.<br>Alleluia!                |
| 3 Where the paschal blood is poured,<br>Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;<br>Israel's hosts triumphant go  | 5 Mighty Victim from the sky,<br>Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;<br>You have conquered in the fight,<br>You have brought us life and light.<br>Alleluia! |

6 Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And Your saints in You shall rise.  
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,

Newborn souls in You to be.  
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days;  
Three in One, Your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

### **“He Calls Me Friend”**

I have a friend, a faithful friend  
and Jesus is His name  
He will not leave, He stands by me,  
my Shepherd, He remains

I have a friend, a mighty friend  
and Jesus is His name  
I shall not fear, He holds me near,  
His strength will keep me safe

### **CHORUS**

His name is true King, Lord of creation  
Ruler without end

I call Him hope, peace, wonderful Savior  
And what joy that Jesus calls me friend

I have a friend, the kindest friend  
and Jesus is His name  
He hears my cry by day or night  
and wipes my tears away **CHORUS**

I have a friend, a Savior friend  
and Jesus is His name  
He fought for me on Calvary  
and trampled on the grave **CHORUS x2**

### **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	Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Lift up your voice and with us sing	Let all things their Creator bless
O praise Him alleluia	And worship Him in humbleness
Thou burning sun with golden beam	O praise Him, alleluia
Thou silver moon with softer gleam	Praise, praise the Father praise the Son
O praise Him, O praise Him	And praise the Spirit three in One
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia	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 alleluia, alleluia
O praise Him alleluia	O alleluia, alleluia
Thou rising moon in praise rejoice	O alleluia, alleluia
Ye lights of evening find a voice	O alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
O praise Him, O praise Him	

### **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**

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 15:13*

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**Serving in Worship Today**

Preacher

Rev. Michael A. Schmid

Lay Reader

Paula Schweiger

Communion Assistants

Andrea Clark, Paula Schweiger

Dove Bain, Rebecca Vitkus

Organist

Erin Blackwood

Sound Technician

Jacob Bartelt

Streaming Technician

Joshua Wright

Projector Tech

Bob Klein

Worship Preparation Team

Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein

Children’s Church Leaders

Joy Dahl

Usher

Sal Pagano

Worship Band

Pastor Mike, Judi & Steve Rock, Savannah Austin,

Tom Hoff, Scott Ondek