

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Aberfoyle Park

Home Worship Service

Led by Pastor Steen Olsen

October 3, 2021

Welcome & Introduction

Jesus became a human being, just like us. It wasn't just to be the presence of God in our midst, but so that he could do something about our major problem, sin and death. To deal with our world which is in rebellion against its creator Jesus needed to become flesh and blood as we are. In the letter to the Hebrews, the writer says, "Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people." [Heb 2:17] At the time of Jesus, there was a high priest who entered the innermost sanctuary of the Temple once a year and made a sacrifice for the sins of all the people. The letter to the Hebrews tells us how Jesus has now made that sacrifice once and for all time, so that it does not need to be repeated year by year, and therefore we are the forgiven children of God.

Today we will have a brief look at one aspect of what Jesus has done for us, namely that we have been adopted into God's family, with Jesus as our elder brother, so we are co-heirs with him to all the promises of God, and we will reign with him in his kingdom.

We worship in the name of this God, the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Songs

[Put Your Hands Up](#) CCLI#6437552

[Nobody Loves Me Like You](#) CCLI#7117604

Bible Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation

of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

2:5-12

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? ⁷ You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor ⁸ and put everything under their feet.” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. ⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹² He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

Message

In the past God spoke to his people in many different ways

But **most clearly and forcefully** God spoke through the **OT prophets**

which ended with the final OT prophet: **John the Baptist**

The writer to the Hebrews announces that **this has now changed:**

...in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds

Then **he tells us more** about this Son:

³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

In just a few words the writer to the Hebrews tells us a great deal about **Jesus**

- He is **God**, reflecting his glory and power, sustaining all things
- He became **human** and set us free from sin on the cross
- He is now in heaven at the right hand of the Father, with the greatest **name**

This is now the platform for telling us we are the adopted sons of God

1) Jesus is the Son of God and we are the sons of God

If we **update the language** here to say, “We are all children of God”

Then we are **in danger of missing** the connection to Jesus

unless we also only talk about **Jesus as the child of God**—not a good idea!

Messing with the titles of Jesus is above my pay-grade!

Generally, I think it is good to use **inclusive language**

So when the Bible talks about ‘**brothers**’ it is **accurate to translate** ‘sisters and brothers’

because otherwise **60%** of the congregation might not feel included and when the Bible talks about **brothers in the general sense** that includes **both** male and female

- 2) **We see this clearly in Galatians chapter 3 if we translate it literally...**
 When our text says *the Son brings many sons to glory*
 the word 'son' **connects** us with the Son + **includes both** male and female.
 These verses **make it absolutely clear** that in the kingdom of God,
 and therefore in the **Church**, these distinctions do not apply
 So ladies, can you handle being a **son of God**?
 what if I also admit to being part of the **Bride of Christ**? [But no white dress!] **at least just** for
 the next few minutes?
- 3) **There is another reason why the NT writers link sons and heirs**
 In Roman culture **slaves and women did not inherit** - they had **fewer legal and other rights**
 Sadly that is still true in **many of the world's cultures** today
 Even in Australia in my lifetime **girls often didn't inherit** as much as their brothers though I
 have to say **I wasn't raised that way**
My parents understood boys and girls to be equal before that became popular
 Therefore the NT makes it absolutely clear by **using 'sons' consistently**
 That is **revolutionary** for that time
 As much as abolishing the distinction between **slave and free** which undermined the whole
economic system of the time and of course **Jews** insisted on being God's favourites, and not
 Gentile sinners
- 4) **So, we are heirs of the Father and joint heirs with the Son** (old song)
 Therefore, we 'sons of God' will one day **reign with Jesus** in glory
 St Paul **speaks of our adoption** as sons when he says in **Romans 8:16f**
*you are sons of God, and if sons, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ and you will
 be glorified with him.*
- 5) **This is echoed in many other parts of the New Testament**
 In **Luke 20:36** Jesus tells us that **once in heaven** we cannot die
 because we are **sons** of God and sons of the resurrection
 And in **Galatians 4:4-7** Paul says we were redeemed
so that you might receive adoption as sons. Therefore God has sent the Spirit of his Son into
 your hearts, crying, "**Abba! Father!**" *So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then
 also an heir, through God.*
 Jesus is **the Son of God**, seated at the Father's right hand in glory
 and now, we are told, **we also** are sons who will be **brought to glory**
 indeed we have the **same Father** as Jesus so he does not hesitate to call us **sisters and
 brothers**
- 6) **Therefore we are no longer slaves but sons of God**
 what an **amazing** thought
 that is what human-kind was **created for**
 but the **fall into sin**, all-but destroyed that **perverted** and twisted sonship into a grotesque
 reality
 that **abuses power** and dominates and hurts others
 Jesus has **bought back**—or redeemed—our sonship that is real here and now, but it is **not
 complete**
 It will only be complete **when he brings us to glory**
 when we will be **seated** with Christ and rule with him
 How did **this wonderful situation** come about?

- 7) **Jesus became one of us so he could bring us back into the family of God**
Our **text** says, *he had made purification for sins and, It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Hebrews here describes Jesus as the **pioneer** of our salvation that is one who **goes ahead** to open up new territory and prepare the way Jesus **became one of us** in order to make us **one with him as sons** of God For Jesus this is **a road of suffering and death**

Our **text** says Jesus, “tasted death for everyone”

He died **the death we deserve** and so took our sin upon himself

Luther called this a ‘**joyful exchange**’ or an amazing swap

Jesus **took our sin** and in exchange gives us his perfect life that is certainly the **deal of the century**—for that matter of all time!

- 8) **In the language of Hebrews, as the high priest he entered the Holy of Holies and sacrificed himself**—once and for all time—for our forgiveness
Thereby bringing about **our adoption** as sons and heirs of the Father
Jesus is as it were our **older brother** and he goes before us to **lead the way** as a pioneer into the glory that awaits us
so that **when Jesus died** on the cross our sin died with him
and when he **rose** to life we also were raised to a new life
that is what **our baptism** is all about

The writer takes up the theme of Jesus our pioneer again in ch 12:

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

So as you **go on with your life** remember **who** you are and **whose** you are
You are the sons of the most high God and the sisters and brothers of Jesus
Also remember **where** you are going—to reign with God in heaven

In the past God spoke to us in many different ways

Now he has spoken to us through his Son Jesus Christ

more than that he sent the Son to become one of us **to suffer** and die and rise again
so that we might also be the sons of God and joint heirs with Jesus.

Amen.

Song

[Trust in You](#) CCLI#7025522

Confession and Absolution

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have failed to live as you children, and so have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have often been slow to believe your promises and have lived as though we were not your heirs. Forgive us and renew us for Jesus sake we pray. Amen.

As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you. Amen.

Prayers

Prayer points to ponder:

- Thank you Heavenly Father for sending Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice. Through His death, our sins have been erased and we have become co-heirs to all of your promises and blessings.
- Help us to live as the free and forgiven people you have made us and to remember that we are heirs of your heavenly Kingdom.
- We pray for our General Synod of Convention being held this weekend and ask that you guide the decisions that are made with wisdom and unity. Be with Andrew Venning as our congregation's delegate.
- We lift up our Call process to you. We ask for your wisdom and guidance on our Call Committee and for the Pastor you are preparing to lead us at Our Saviour.
- We join churches across Australia as we pray for our nation to seek God. We pray for spiritual renewal and revival and for an end to the pandemic. We pray that people will repent and turn towards God.
- We think of those countries and people also struggling with the added burden of civil unrest and natural disasters – flooding, fire, drought, earthquakes. We pray for God's mercies for them.
- Be with those struggling with loneliness, depression, financial or health concerns. We pray especially for people in our own community. Remind them of your love and care for them and prompt each of us to reach out to those who need our support and friendship.

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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, dead and 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 there 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.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favour, and give you peace. Amen.

Song

[Satisfied](#) CCLI#7117453