



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CALVARY Lutheran Church
480 MONTEREY AVE.
MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA
Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

December 25, 2023
Christmas Day



PRELUDE**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****Pastor Brian Stein-Webber****ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS***All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

Amen.

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers.

We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

Amen.

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

Amen.**GATHERING****Joy to the World #267****(red hymnal, rear section)****Joy to the world, the Lord is come!****Let earth receive her king;****let ev'ry heart prepare him room****and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,****and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.****Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!****Let all their songs employ,****while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains****repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,****repeat, repeat the sounding joy.****No more let sin and sorrow grow****nor thorns infest the ground;****he comes to make his blessings flow****far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,****far as, far as the curse is found.****He rules the world with truth and grace****and makes the nations prove****the glories of his righteousness****and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,****and wonder, wonders of his love.**

GREETING

The grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us pray together... **Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN Good Christian Friends, Rejoice #288 (red hymnal, rear section)

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say; Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christians friend rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

Isaiah 62:6-12 (the congregation responds with the bold words)

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
 all day and all night they shall never be silent.

**You who remind God, take no rest,
 and give God no rest until Jerusalem is established
 and is made renowned throughout the earth.**

God has sworn by God's right hand and mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,
 and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored;
**but those who garner it shall eat it and praise God,
 and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.**

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;
**build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones,
 lift up an ensign over the peoples.**

God has proclaimed to the end of the earth:
 Say to daughter Zion,

“See, your salvation comes; God’s reward is with that one,
and God’s recompense before him that one.

**They shall be called, “The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord”;
and you shall be called, “Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.”**

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,
who saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done,
but according to God’s mercy,
through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
This Spirit God poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by his grace,
we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S CONVERSATION

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #174 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-5, 10-14

The gospel passage for today is from John, the 1st chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

Glory be to you, Oh Lord.

(let us read the gospel together)

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being
through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being in the
Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.**

**The Word was in the world, and the world came into being through him,
yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God, who were born not of blood or of the will of the flesh,
or of the will of humankind, but of God.**

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.**

This is the gospel indeed.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOLY CONVERSATION

Led by Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

SERMON HYMN Angels from the Realms of Glory #275 (red hymnal, rear section)

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creations' story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.

REFRAIN

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.

REFRAIN

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.

REFRAIN

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.

REFRAIN**APOSTLE'S CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

And he will come to judge the living and dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

A brief silence.

Your infinite love is born to us this night. With choirs of angels the church proclaims the good news. Send us out as messengers of the hope that has come to all people. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You are pleased to dwell with your creatures and the whole earth sings for joy. Renew the splendor of creation from the smallest cell to the widest galaxies. Guide us to be wise stewards of your gifts for the sake of generations to come. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your authority is over the nations. Break the rod of oppression in every land and free all people from fear. Bring peace where there is war, compassion where there is suffering, and healing where there is disease, especially in Ukraine and Pakistan. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You cherish those who are most vulnerable. Protect infants and children, and bless those who care for them. Watch over women giving birth, attend the dying, and relieve any who are in pain. Shelter refugee families and those who have no home. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your lovingkindness embraces everyone in need. Help any for whom this season is lonely or joyless. Comfort those among us, or known to us, who are experiencing distress of body or mind, missing loved ones, or grieving, especially,

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You welcome those who have died into the joyous light of glory. We give thanks for the saints of every time and place who have praised you with lives of faith and humility. Inspire us by their example to love you by serving others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We now lift up individual prayers for people and situations that are close to us. We pray for....
 God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.... **Eternal God,
 you make the desert bloom
 and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
 Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
 and make us messengers of your mercy and love
 for all in need of your healing and justice.
 We ask this through Christ our Savior.
 Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE**SANCTUS**

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might.
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest!
 Blessed is the one who comes in your name!
 Hosanna in the highest!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night in which he was betrayed, at the end of his life,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it
 and gave it to his disciples saying,
 “Take and eat, this is my body given for you.
 Do this in remembrance of me.”

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it to his disciples, saying,
 “Drink this, all of you. It is the new covenant of my blood,
 shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this in remembrance of me.’

Let pray the prayer that our Lord Jesus taught us:

**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.**

TAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION

[All who desire may come forward to take the body and blood of Christ. During the distribution of Communion, you may also seek prayers of healing at the chair by the baptismal font.]

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.

As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

AMEN.

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Angels We Have Heard on High #289
(red hymnal, rear section)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN

Glo.....ria in excelsis Deo;

Glo.....ria in excelsis Deo;

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

REFRAIN

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn king

REFRAIN**DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to:

- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Joyce Bauer, Nikki Rocha and Kathie Sperow** for preparing communion.
- **Janet Lorenzo** and others for streaming worship.
- **Janet Lorenzo and Gail Brochtrup** for editing and assembling bulletins and the newsletter.
- **Nancy Padilla**, for setting up and welcoming.
- **Gary and Mark Orback**, for tending to our outside property.
- **Sophia and Janet Lorenzo**, for tending to our inside property.
- **Ken Brocks, Dan Sperow, Andrew Jacoby, Mike Lorenzo and Gary Brochtrup** for their handyman work.
- **The Church Council**, for leading our congregation.

Events this week:

- **Epiphany Day worship** will be on Saturday, January 6th, starting at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary.
- The **Congregational Annual Meeting** will be on Sunday, January 14th after worship has ended.

Don't forget to check the Calendar website page for upcoming events: morrobaylutherans.org