

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH 480 MONTEREY AVE. MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

February 22, 2023



PRELUDE John Cribb

WELCOME Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

GATHERING SONG The Heart of Worship

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come; longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your heart.

I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required. You search much deeper within through the way things appear; You're looking into my heart. I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus. I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it, when it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus. King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve. Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath. I'll bring You more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required. You search much deeper within through the way things appear; You're looking into my heart.

I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus. I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it, when it's all about You.

I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus. I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it, when it's all about You.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. Silence is kept for reflection. Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

[Please come forward as you wish and receive the imposition of ashes on your forehead, with the word, "From dust you have come, and to dust you shall return"]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SONG Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet

REFRAIN

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid, I think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me, nothing will I fear as long as you are near, please be near me to the end.

REFRAIN

I will not forget your love for me and yet, I'll forever be wand'ring. Jesus, be my guide, hold me to your side; I will love you to the end. REFRAIN

PSALM 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness,

and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my offenses,

and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,

a sinner from my mother's womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,

and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

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The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The gospel passage for Ash Wednesday is from Matthew, the 6^{th} chapter, beginning with the 1st verse. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:]

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you,

as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets,

so that they may be praised by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But when you give alms,

do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

so that your alms may be done in secret;

and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites;

for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners,

so that they may be seen by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But whenever you pray,

go into your room and shut the door

and pray to your Father who is in secret;

and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
where moth and rust consume
and where thieves break in and steal;
but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust consumes
and where thieves do not break in and steal.
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

This is the gospel indeed. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

HYMN OF THE DAY

Just As I Am

ELW #592

Just as I am, without one plea, but that they blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thing alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence*.

O Lord, our God, you gather your church and call us to return to you. Accompany us throughout our Lenten pilgrimage. Create in us clean hearts and renew all the baptized to declare your praise. Merciful God.

receive our prayer.

Renew your creation, O God. Bring rains to parched places and heal lands affected by a changing climate), that all inhabitants of the earth experience your abundance. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Renew the nations, O God. Give voice to those on the margins and resolve to world leaders who seek to protect those most vulnerable. Loosen the bonds of injustice and bring an end to all violence, oppression, and persecution. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew your people, O God. Respond to those who cry out to you in secret or in seclusion. Equip us with compassion to care for those who experience homelessness, food insecurity, economic hardship, and illness. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. Inspire our faith formation ministries and those who teach and lead. Invigorate us with lifelong curiosity and wonder as we grow as your disciples. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, we give thanks for all your faithful ones of every time and place. Renew us by the example of their lives of prayer and service, and at the last, bring us with them into your everlasting presence. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together....
God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
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

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 144

Holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night in which he was betrayed, 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 us 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.

LAMB OF GOD ELW p. 146

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.

TAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION

[All who desire may come forward to take the body and blood of Christ.]

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,

Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE John Cribb