



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

December 31, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas



PRELUDE**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****Pastor Brian Stein-Webber****ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS****Pastor Mary Stein-Webber**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 who opens the heavens
 and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
 Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
 that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
 We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty.
 Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you.
 Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
 for the sake of our waiting world.**

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation
 and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,
 your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,
 and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

**GATHERING Open our Ears, O Faithful People #519
 (red hymnal, rear section)**

**Open you ears, O faithful people, open your ears and hear God's word.
 Open your hearts, O royal priesthood, God has come to you.**

REFRAIN

**God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
 God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
 God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
 God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

**They who have ears to hear the message, they who have ears, now let them hear;
 They who would learn the way of wisdom, let them hear God's word.**

REFRAIN

**Come now O people to the worship, come now and raise your voices high!
 Come now O people to the worship, God is present here.**

REFRAIN

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.

KYRIE

Now the Feast and Celebration booklet p. 3

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.
A---men.

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION

NTFAC booklet p. 4

REFRAIN

**Now the feast and celebration, all of creation sings for joy
to the God of life and love and freedom;
praise and glory forevermore!**

**Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and united us
to be one great people of God.**

REFRAIN

**Power and riches, wisdom and might,
all honor and glory to Christ, forever.**

REFRAIN

**For God has come to dwell with us,
to make us people of God;
to make all things new.**

REFRAIN**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

*(The congregation will read the **bold** words.)*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
 my whole being shall exult in my God;
**for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
 God has covered me with the robe of righteousness,**
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
**For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,**
 so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
 to spring up before all the nations.

**For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,**
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.
**The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;**
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the Lord will give.
**You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

Jim Luke

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

*(The congregation reads the **bold** words.)*

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman,
 born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law,
 so that we might receive adoption as children.
**And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
 crying, "Abba! Father!"**
 So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia #174

(red hymnal, rear section)

Alleluia, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:22-40

The gospel lesson for this First Sunday of Christmas is from the 2nd chapter of the Gospel of Luke, beginning with the 22nd verse.

Glory to you, O God.

*(The congregation shall read the **bold** words.)*

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses,
 [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord
 (as it is written in the law of the Lord,

“Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”),
 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,
 “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
 this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel,
 and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
 that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple;
 and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,

to do for him what was customary under the law,
 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

**“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
 for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”**

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary,

**“This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel,
 and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—
 and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”**

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
 She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
 then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.

She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

**At that moment she came, and began to praise God
 and to speak about the child to all who were looking
 for the redemption of Jerusalem.**

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord,
 they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

**The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
 and the favor of God was upon him.**

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

SERMON HYMN Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child #297
(red hymnal, rear section)

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child
 Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek, and mild;
 new life, new hope the child will bring.
 Listen to the angels sing:
 “Glory, glory, glory,” let the heavens ring.

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

Trusting in God’s good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. We also lift up the following people:

- Sean Cannoles – Nikki Rocha’s cousin – heart problems
- Katie Edson and family who lost their mother on November 28
- Joyce Bauer – recovering at home after recent hospitalization
- Elaine Grawe – relocating to be near her son
- Nancy Padilla – multiple dental procedures
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Robin Karas – Home from Bayside and recovering
- Christian – Heidi Carney’s son – dealing with multiple ailments
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello’s sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer
- Jim Luke and family – in the death of his wife, Linda
- Wes, brother of John Cribb – Kidney issues
- Byron Nelson - friend of Jacoby's - Cancer
- Mike Johnson - lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter – dealing with frontotemporal lobe dementia, starting a medication trial
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport
- Aaron Brochtrup - for perseverance and patience while he works to recover from his injuries
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas – learning to live with condition
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- James Hecker- undergoing hyperbaric oxygen therapy for serious infection
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting COVID
- For an end to the war in Ukraine
- For the earthquake victims in Afghanistan
- For the people of Israel and Palestine
- Victims of senseless gun violence

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sustain each of us in our daily walks with you, and listen to our prayers for others on our hearts, especially,
[You may name out loud or in your heart, those who are on your hearts, this morning.]

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share that peace with one another.

**OFFERING SONG Create in Me a Clean Heart #186
(red hymnal, rear section)**

**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 unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Mary Stein-Webber

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**

NTFAC booklet p. 11

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest, 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.**

TAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION

[All who desire may come forward to take the body and blood of Christ. Gluten-free bread is available if you ask for it, and alcohol-free grape juice is in the center ring of the tray. During the distribution of Communion, you may also seek prayers of healing at the chair by the baptismal font.]

You are invited to bring to the altar pictures or names of loved ones, to exemplify that whole hosts of believers who have come and will come to the table of blessing.]

COMMUNION HYMN Let Our Voices Rise Like Incense

**Let our voices rise like incense
Let them be as sweet perfume
Let our praises fill the temple
Hallelujah's ringing ever new**

**Holy, Holy
Is the Lord Almighty
Holy, Holy
Is the Lord our God**

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

THANKS BE TO YOU

NTFAC booklet p. 15

**Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!**

**From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!
Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!**

**Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.**

**Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!**

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 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.

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to:

- **Jean Senter** for being worship assistant.
- **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:

- **The discussion group on The Chosen** is on hiatus until January 7th, 2024.
- **Sermon Feedback and Feedforward** is on hiatus until January 8th, 2024.
- **Confirmation** is on hiatus until Monday, January 8th, 2024.
- **Bible Study** is on hiatus until January 3rd, 2024.
- **Coffee Club** will meet on **Tuesday, January 2**, at 9:00 at the Inn at Morro Bay
- The **Congregational Annual Meeting** will be on Sunday, January 14th after worship has ended. The primary business will be to elect the Church Council members for this year and to review and approve the 2024 budget.
- **Epiphany Worship** will be on Saturday, January 6th, at 5:30 pm. Those who attend may help to take down the Christmas greens after worship!
- Let Pastor Brian know if you would like to **start receiving his weekly emails**.
(bsteinwebber@gmail.com)

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