



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

March 19, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Lent



WORSHIP BOOKLET

PRELUDE

John Cribb

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, who makes all things new,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,

we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves.

We have not practiced your righteousness.

Our hearts have turned away from you.

For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us,

that we may be reconciled to one another

for the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

Thus says our God:

"The former things have come to pass
and new things I now declare."

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ✝ Christ our Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING

Seek Ye First

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

**We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

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.

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

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!

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

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

PSALM 23 (the congregation responds with the bold words)

God is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**God makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O God,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of God forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in God you are light.

Live as children of light—

for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Try to find out what is pleasing to God.

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly;

but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

for everything that becomes visible is light

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S CONVERSATION

Gospel Lesson: John 9:1-41

The gospel passage for today is from the book of John, the 9th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

Glory be to you, Oh Lord.

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

His disciples asked him,

“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered,

“Neither this man nor his parents sinned;

he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him.

We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day;

night is coming when no one can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.
When he had said this, he spat on the ground
and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,
saying to him,
 "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent).
Then he went and washed and came back able to see.
The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,
 "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"
Some were saying, "It is he."
Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him."
He kept saying, "I am the man."
But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"
He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me,
 'Go to Siloam and wash.
 Then I went and washed and received my sight."
They said to him, "Where is he?"
He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹
Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹
Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight.
He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."
Some of the Pharisees said,
 "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath."
But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?"
And they were divided.
So they said again to the blind man,
 "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened."
He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight
until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹
and asked them,
 "Is this your son, who you say was born blind?
 How then does he now see?"
His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹
but we do not know how it is that now he sees,
 nor do we know who opened his eyes.
Ask him; he is of age.
He will speak for himself."
His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews;
for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah
would be put out of the synagogue.
Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,
 "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."
He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner.
 One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again?

Do you also want to become his disciples?"

Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man,

we do not know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing!

You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.

We know that God does not listen to sinners,

but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

Never since the world began has it been heard

that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said,

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

He said, "Lord, I believe."

And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see,

and those who do see may become blind."

Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him,

"Surely we are not blind, are we?"

Jesus said to them,

"If you were blind, you would not have sin.

But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

This is the gospel indeed.

Praise to you, O Christ.

DISCUSSION OF GOSPEL LESSON

Everybody

SERMON HYMN

You Are Mine #581 (red hymnal, rear section)

"I will come to you in the silence, I will lift you from all your fear.

You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice.

Be still and know I am here."

"I am hope for all who are hopeless, I am eyes for all who long to see.

In the shadows of the night, I will be your light.

Come and rest in me."

REFRAIN

"Do not be afraid, I am with you.

I have called you each by name.

**Come and follow me, I will bring you home;
I love you and you are mine."**

**"I am strength for all the despairing, healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and all will know my name."
REFRAIN**

**"I am the Word that leads all to freedom, I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain.
Stand up, now walk and live!"
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

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

A brief silence.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Powerful God, you anoint and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve, and others in need of our prayers, especially...

- Linda Hermann - mother-in-law of Katie Edson's daughter, dealing with diagnosis and treatment of leukemia
- Diane Williams - recovering from intestinal issues
- John Cribb - death of his father in South Carolina
- Gary & Eileen Orback whose home was damaged in the storm
- Betty Johnson - recovering from infection and blood clot while undergoing chemotherapy
- Jennifer Kurrle - adjusting to new medications
- Ina Davenport - Healing of her arm
- Aaron Brochtrup - still unable to return to work - neck pain, headaches, neurological trauma
- Janelle Muff -Healing after surgery and blood clot
- Joanne Kulczyk – recovering from a fall
- Sally Mingo, Jennifer Kurrle's mother - knee injury
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas - continuing to make progress in recovery
- Linda Luke - to gain weight and strength
- Jim Luke - supporting Linda's recovery
- Becky Padilla- responding well to treatment for cancer
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- James Hecker- ongoing abdominal pain
- Christopher Buckles, Kate Anderson's son
- Marcia and Rick Walt, friends of Cindy Haener
- Darel and Betty Sorenson - Betty remains in nursing care on Hospice
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mother
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting the new COVID-19 omicron variants
- For the people of Ukraine, for strength, healing and protection, and changes of heart for those attacking them

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community, including the community dinners of Morro Bay and Los Osos, and the people affiliated with Iglesia Luterana de Santa Cruz. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of all in need, we pray for others who are on our minds, including...

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. 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.

Let us share that peace with one another.

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 #191

(red hymnal, rear section)

**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.]

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD OF MERCY #208 (red hymnal, rear section)

**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:
**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.

**SENDING HYMN Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service #712
(red hymnal, rear section)**

**Lord, whose love in humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, worked your mercy's perfect deed;
we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose ev'ry gift which you impart.**

**Still your children wander homeless; still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power to our world to make it whole.**

**As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share.**

**Called by worship to your service, forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good-will and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom may your mercy know and live.**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

John Cribb

Thank you to:

- **Katie Edson** for assisting in worship.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **John Cribb** for accompanying worship.
- **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 and Gary Brochtrup** for their handyman work.

Events this week:

- Today we are continuing our **Lent Collection for the people served by Iglesia Luterana de Santa Cruz**. You may place food and other donations in the “beach bags” for the disciples to take down south at the end of the season!
- **The Preaching Congregation group** will meet tonight, 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Zoom.
- **The Chosen discussion group** will next meet on Sunday, March 26th at 7:00 pm on Zoom, to discuss Season 3, Episode 8. Watch for the invite!
- **Bible Study** will take place on Wednesday, March 22nd at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.
- The fourth of our **Lenten soup suppers** will be this Wednesday night, March 22nd, with supper starting at 5:30 pm and a brief worship at 6:15 pm.
- Holy Week services will be as follows:
 - Palm/Passion Sunday – Sunday, April 2nd, 10:00 am
 - Maundy Thursday – Thursday, April 6th, 6:00 pm
 - Good Friday – Friday, April 7th, 6:00 pm
 - Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 9th, 10:00 am
- **IMPORTANT:** We have learned that the **Vineyard congregation has decided that they do not wish to further pursue** holding their Sunday worship and fellowship at our building. Therefore special congregational meetings originally scheduled for March 19th and 26th have been cancelled. Thank you for your patience and attention in this matter!
- 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**