



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

July 30, 2023
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost



PRELUDE

John Cribb

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Brian

GATHERING HYMN

Let the Whole Creation Cry #876 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Let the whole creation cry, Glory to the Lord on high."
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice.**

**Servants striving for the Lord, prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"**

**Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One; glory be to God alone!"**

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.**

GLORIA p. 204

(red hymnal, front section)

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Maker of surpassing worth;
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all;
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Maker's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**The Lord be with you!
And also with you!**

Let us pray together.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON: I Kings 3:5-12

*[The congregation will read the **bold** words.]*

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night;
and God said, "Ask what I should give you."

And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David,
because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you;
and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.

And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David,
although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen,
a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.

**Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people,
able to discern between good and evil;
for who can govern this your great people?"**

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹

God said to him,

"Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches,
or for the life of your enemies,
but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,
I now do according to your word.

Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind;

no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:129-136 (the congregation responds with the bold words)

Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding | to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39
(The congregation reads the bold words.)

[Paul writes:]

The Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we ought,
 but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit,
 because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
 who are called according to God's purpose.**

For those whom God foreknew
 God also predestined to be conformed to the image of God's Son,
 in order that the Son might be the firstborn within a large family.
And those whom God predestined God also called;
and those whom God called God also justified;
and those whom God justified God also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
God who did not withhold the Son, but gave him up for all of us,
 will he not with God also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.
Who is to condemn?

**It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,
 who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.**

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness,
 or peril, or sword?

As it is written,
 "For your sake we are being killed all day long;
 we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
 nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
 will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION p. 205 (red hymnal, front section)

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The gospel lesson for this Ninth Sunday after Pentecost is from the 13th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, beginning with the 31st verse.

Glory to you, O God.

(The congregation shall read the bold words.)

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed
that someone took and sowed in his field;
it is the smallest of all the seeds,
but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree,
so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in
with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field,
which someone found and hid;
then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls;
on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea
and caught fish of every kind;
when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down,
and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

So it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous
and throw them into the furnace of fire,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?”

They answered, “Yes.”

And he said to them,

“Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven
is like the master of a household
who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

This is the gospel indeed.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind;
and when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form confirmands and catechumens into disciples. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick, especially,

- Kathie Sperow – recovering from covid
- Pastor David Ryal - covid
- Christian Carney – dealing with multiple ailments
- Dick Williams – receiving treatment for lower back weakness
- Pastor Brian – recovering from a recent medical procedure
- Maddison Schwenoha – friend of Sophia Lorenzo – multiple injuries from car accident
- Tom Anello’s sister – undergoing treatment for cancer
- Jim Luke and family – in the death of his wife, Linda
- Joyce Bauer – thanksgiving for having her health consultation this past week
- Ruth Anello – Recovering from orthopedic surgery
- Wes, brother of John Cribb - recovering from kidney surgery
- Byron Nelson - friend of Jacoby's - Cancer
- Mike Johnson - lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter - illness
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ben - Kathie Sperow's grandson recovering from trauma
- Ina Davenport – preparing to move to assisted living
- Linda Hermann - mother-in-law of Katie Edson's daughter, leukemia
- Betty Johnson - recovering from infection and blood clot while undergoing chemotherapy
- Aaron Brochtrup - for perseverance and patience while he works to recover from his injuries
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas - continuing to make progress in recovery
- Marcia Shep, Jennifer Kurrle's grandmother
- James Hecker- ongoing abdominal pain
- Mercedes Stevens, Katie Edson's mother
- Iglesia Santa Cruz, Pastor Esteban and Angie- for our support of their ministry
- For those who are contracting COVID
- For the people of Ukraine, for strength, healing, protection, and changes of heart for those attacking them
- For Sandy McMillan, Gail Brochtrup, and Darel Sorensen who celebrate their birthdays this week, and for Ron & Audrey Forster who celebrate their wedding anniversary

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray also, O God, for those whom we have not named yet, but are also in need of our support and intercession, especially,

[You may name out loud or in your heart, those who are on your hearts, this morning.]

God in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we give thanks for your saints who now rest from their labors. Inspire us by their witness to treasure the gospel, and continually nourish us with your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, 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 field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

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 p. 207

(red hymnal, front section)

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory,

hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of our Lord.

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.

LAMB OF GOD p. 208 (red hymnal, front section)

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away
you suffered death our lives to save; have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

**We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.**

**Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

AMEN.

BLESSING

The God who calls across the cosmos
and speaks in the smallest seed

✠ bless, keep, and sustain you
now and to the end of the age.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN **God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (red hymnal, rear section)**

God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space:
we, your children in your likeness, share inventive pow'rs with you;
great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined pow'r,
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew:
children of creative purpose, serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be part of the harvesting.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

John Cribb

Thank you to:

- **Dave Muff**, for being assisting minister.
- **John Cribb** for accompanying.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Joyce Bauer and others** 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, and Gary Brochtrup** for their handyman work.
- **The Church Council**, for leading our congregation.

Events this week:

- For the next four weeks, we will be gathering two kinds of items to be taken to **Iglesia de Santa Cruz in Santa Maria**. First, we are asking for **school supplies** of all kinds for the young people who will start school again. Second, we are asking for **food and household items** as well, such as been true in the past. The Angel Team will be making deliveries on Thursday, August 24th.
- **The discussion group on The Chosen** will meet tonight, 7:00 to 8:00 pm on Zoom, to talk about Season 2, Episode 7, “Beyond Mountains.”
- The **Sermon Feedback and Feedforward** will not meet this week.
- **The Bible Study** will take place on Wednesday, August 2nd at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. We are following a new curriculum, watching a video called *The Bible as Literature*, and then discussing it. This week’s subject will be *Elijah, the Troubler of Israel*.
- There will be a **congregational meeting** after worship today in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to consider a proposal by Toste Construction to reshape and repave the parking lot on the north side of the property. If the proposal is approved, then a financing plan will be discussed and approved.
- Also, today after the congregational meeting, there will be a **potluck lunch** in the fellowship hall. We believe that, through sign-ups already conducted, we will be lucky about having enough food, so come eat with us, even if you haven’t been cooking for the event!
- If you too would like to create **bulletin cover art** such as we have seen done by our young people recently, please talk with Pastor Brian.
- 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