



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

September 10th, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”
Matthew 18:20

PRELUDE

John Cribb

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Brian

ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING

Morning Has Broken #556

(red hymnal, rear section)

**Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word.**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

GREETING

In the name of God the Creator, in the name of Christ the Redeemer, in the name of the Guiding Spirit, Alleluia, Amen.

Come let us worship God (repeat throughout).

Come let us worship God.

Welcome everyone,

To the Love of God.

Rest for the weary...

Food for the hungry...

Hope for the children...

KYRIE

Ray Makeever

Kyrie eleison...

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison...

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie...

Kyrie.

Christe...

Christe.

Kyrie...

Kyrie.

Christe...

Christe.

Kyrie, Christe eleison.

Kyrie, Christe eleison.

[Repeat last line two more times in a round.]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Let us pray together.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-11

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

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel;
whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.

If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die,"

and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways,

the wicked shall die in their iniquity,

but their blood I will require at your hand.

But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways,
the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel,

Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us,
and we waste away because of them;
how then can we live?"

Say to them,

As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked,
but that the wicked turn from their ways and live;

**turn back, turn back from your evil ways;
for why will you die, O house of Israel?**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40 (the congregation responds with the bold words)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

**Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14
(The congregation reads the bold words.)**

[Paul writes:]

Owe no one anything, except to love one another;
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder;
You shall not steal; You shall not covet";

and any other commandment, are summed up in this word,
"Love your neighbor as yourself."

**Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.**

Besides this, you know what time it is,

how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.
For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers;
the night is far gone, the day is near.
Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;
let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness,
not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.
**Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Open Your Ears #519 (verse 1) (red hymnal, front section)

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

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:15-20

The gospel lesson for this Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from the 18th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, beginning with the 15th verse.

Glory to you, O God.

(The congregation shall read the bold words.)

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.

But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Abba in heaven.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

This is the gospel indeed.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Open Your Ears (refrain)

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!

God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah! (Hallelujah!)

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!

God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

SERMON

Pastor Mary

SERMON HYMN

Drawn to the Light #593 (red hymnal, rear section)

People who walk in darkness have sought
a light in the heart of the darkest night.
Just when we thought all would be lost,
we are drawn to the light of God.

REFRAIN

Dawn is in sight! God is the night,
drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight
to be drawn to the light of God.

How can we tell a heaven from hell
if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels,
and we're drawn to the light of God.

REFRAIN

Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none!
The Lamb is the one who is shining bright,
bids us to come! Life has begun
when we're drawn to the light of God.

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

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth's thriving. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick, especially,

- Jim Dean and wife – friends of the Sperow's – critically fighting an infection
- Reverend Caro and Jill – seeking to resolve conflict with neighbors
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Robin Karas – back at Bayside for continued rehab
- Mark Shuck – Gail B.'s brother –recovering from shoulder surgery
- Christian – Heidi Carney's son – dealing with multiple ailments
- Dick Williams – enjoying healing of his back
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello's sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer
- Joyce Bauer – being monitored for condition
- Wes, brother of John Cribb – facing the choice between kidney dialysis and kidney transplant
- Byron Nelson - friend of Jacoby's - Cancer
- Mike Johnson - lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter – dealing with illness
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport – preparing to move to assisted living
- Linda Hermann - mother-in-law of Katie Edson's daughter, leukemia
- 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- weighing treatment options for persistent infection
- 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 in Turkey suffering from the earthquake, and the IMPACT Missionaries
- For the people of Ukraine, for strength, healing, protection, and changes of heart for those attacking them
- For Diane Williams, Tyler Mitchell and Jim Luke who celebrate their birthdays this week.

Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

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.]

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Be our hope, O God. We remember with thanksgiving your disciples who died in faith. May their trust in your promise be our protection and our hope. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.
Let us share that peace with one another.

OFFERING SONG

Ray Makeever

**What have we to offer? What have we to share?
Coins from the coffer, hearts filled with care.
God will not falter; so let us dare
lay it at the altar there.**

**What have we to offer? What have we to bring?
Love, ripe with laughter; hope that we can sing;
dreams of what we're after, promises of when.
Lay it at the altar then.**

**What have we to offer? What have we to give?
Eyes that are wide open; lies that we won't live;
truth that must be spoken, justice somehow.
Lay it at the altar now.**

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 (spoken)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our 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.**

CHRIST, HAVE MERCY ON US ALL

Ray Makeever

**Christ have mercy on us all.
Keep us steadfast e'er we fall.
Break the bread, pour the wine. Come and dine.**

**God, be with us at the feast.
Grant us wisdom, give us peace.
Break the bread, pour the wine. Come and dine.**

**Holy Spirit, breathe again.
Light the darkness, be our friend.
Break the bread, pour the wine. Come and dine.**

**Bake a great loaf; give it time;
choose the best grapes from the vine.
Break the bread, pour the wine. Come and dine.**

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:

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

AMEN.

BLESSING

The God of glory,

✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN Lead Me, Guide Me #768 (red hymnal, rear section)

REFRAIN

**Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

REFRAIN

**Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

REFRAIN

**I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

REFRAIN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

John Cribb

Thank you to:

- **Pastor Mary** for preaching today
- **John Cribb** for accompanying
- **Andy Jacoby** for assisting
- **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:

- **The discussion group on The Chosen** will meet tonight on Zoom at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing Season 3, Episode 3.
- The **Sermon Feedback and Feedforward** will meet tomorrow, Monday, September 7th. The lessons to be discussed will be Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35.
- The **Finance Committee** will meet on Tuesday, September 12th at 7:00 pm online.
- The **Bible Study** will meet this Wednesday, September 1th at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.
- The **Church Council** will meet on Thursday, September 14th on 5:00 pm.
- **Coffee Club** will meet on Friday, September 15th, starting at 9:00 am at La Katrina restaurant on the Embarcadero.
- There will be a **Churchwide Workday** on Saturday, September 16th, starting at noon with a pizza lunch. Please sign up if you can participate!
- Orientation for the **Confirmation Class** will be on Monday, September 18th, 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall.
- There will be a **Pancake Brunch** after worship on Sunday, September 24th. A free will offering will benefit our Compassion Child, Charite. There are also Thrivent Generosity T-shirts for a very reasonable donation which will also benefit the same cause.
- 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**