



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Brian

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING

**O Jesus, I Have Promised #810
(red hymnal, rear section)**

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle, if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

**Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.**

**Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

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.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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: Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea,
to go around the land of Edom;
but the people became impatient on the way.

The people spoke against God and against Moses,

**“Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?
For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.”**

Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people,
and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died.

The people came to Moses and said,

**“We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you;
pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.”**

So Moses prayed for the people.

And the Lord said to Moses,

“Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole;
and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.”

So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole;
and whenever a serpent bit someone,

that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery #334 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Tree of life and awesome myst'ry, in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry, still you rise with ev'ry morn,
still you rise with ev'ry morn.**

**We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word;
ev'ry person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord,
wears the body of our Lord.**

**Christ, you lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.**

**Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright,
as your gospel shining bright.**

**Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word,
give us faith to live your word.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived,
following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air,
the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.

**All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh,
following the desires of flesh and senses,
and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.**

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us
even when we were dead through our trespasses,
made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
and raised us up with him and seated us with him
in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
so that in the ages to come
he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us
in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

**For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.**

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: John 3: 14-21

The gospel lesson for this Fourth Sunday in Lent is from the 3rd chapter of the Gospel of John, beginning with the 14th verse.

Glory to you, O God.

[Jesus said:]

“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but may have eternal life.**

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.
Those who believe in him are not condemned;
but those who do not believe are condemned already,
because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.
And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world,
and people loved darkness rather than light
because their deeds were evil.
**For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light,
so that their deeds may not be exposed.**
But those who do what is true come to the light,
so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

SERMON

Nikki Rocha

SERMON HYMN

Spirit of Gentleness # 396 (red hymnal, rear section)

REFRAIN

**Spirit, Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.**

**You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
“Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.”**

REFRAIN

**You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes.**

REFRAIN

**You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.**

REFRAIN

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise.**

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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers, especially the Pacific Ocean, Estero Bay and Morro Creek. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love *especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today*. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you touch us and we are healed. We pray for those we know who are struggling with illness or hardship, and are seeking your assistance, especially,

- Carolyn Wyatt – friend of Nancy Padilla Cancer, chemo/radiation for a year
- Aryia, - a new baby who is in the NICU, on a breathing machine and struggling.
- Kathie Sperow – thanksgiving for good health
- Jean Senter – recovering from knee problems
- Sean Cannoles, Nikki Rocha’s cousin – heart problems
- Katie Edson and family who are grieving the loss of Mercedes
- Elaine Grawe – adjusting to living situation
- Nancy Padilla – going through multiple dental procedures
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Christian, Heidi Carney’s son – for peace and comfort
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello’s sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer
- Byron Nelson, friend of Jacoby's – dealing with cancer
- Mike Johnson – dealing with lymphatic cancer
- Chris Senter – frontotemporal lobe dementia, and starting a medication trial
- Heidi Carney – ongoing health issues
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport – Thankful for a successful eye surgery
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas – dealing with health issues
- James Hecker- undergoing hyperbaric oxygen therapy for serious infection
- Iglesia San Juan Bautista, Pastor Esteban and Angie – support of their ministry
- Those who are contracting COVID
- An end to the war in Ukraine
- The peoples of Israel and Palestine
- Victims of senseless gun violence
- For Jennifer Christmen and Jacob Rocha who celebrate their birthdays this week

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ever-hearing God, you listen to our voices always. Please, we ask, that you tend to the needs of other people who we now name,

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

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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.... **Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.**

Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

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:

Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
AMEN.

BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross #335 (red hymnal, rear section)

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

REFRAIN

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

REFRAIN

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.

REFRAIN

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.

REFRAIN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to:

- **Nikki Rocha**, for preaching today.
- **Brenda Ouwerkerk**, for assisting today.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Joyce Bauer** 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, 6:30 to 7:30 pm on Zoom, to talk about Season 3, Episode 7 from *The Chosen*, to prepare ourselves for the episodes of Season 4 which are coming soon.
- **Confirmation Class** will meet on Monday, March 11th at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. The subject will be **Paul the Evangelist**.
- **The Sermon Feedback and Feedforward** will meet on Tuesday, March 12th, at 10:00 am. We will be discussing next week's lessons: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10; and John 12:20-33.
- The **Bible Study on the Parables of Grace** will take place on Tuesday, March 12th, 1:10 to 2:30 pm entirely on Zoom.
- **Wednesday Bible Study** will take place on March 13th at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. The subject will be *Paul on Gender Roles and Slavery*.
- There will be **soup supper and mid-week Lenten worship** on Wednesday, March 13th starting at 5:30 pm. You many sign up today to provide soup, bread or dessert.
- **Coffee Club** will meet this Friday, March 15th, starting at 9:00 am at Hungry Fisherman.
- We continue the **Lenten collection of food and other household items** for Iglesia San Juan Bautista (formerly Santa Cruz), with the goal of reaching over 888 pounds of goods. You may bring your contributions to the boat in the sanctuary.
- We are also asking you to assemble items for **the congregational "yard" sale** on this Friday and Saturday, March 15th and 16th. You will be able to see the current items in the fellowship hall. You may donate any items you have at any time when the fellowship hall is open (see flyer for times)
- Let Pastor Brian know if you would like to **start receiving his weekly emails**.
(bsteinwebber@gmail.com)

Remember to check the website calendar for upcoming events!
Morrobaylutherans.org