

April 28, 2024  
Calvary Lutheran Church, Morro Bay  
Fifth Sunday of Easter



**PRELUDE**

**Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)**  
*Arr. Mary McDonald*

**Jean Wilt**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Pastor Brian Stein-Webber**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.  
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.  
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.

In a desert pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Look, here is water!

**Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

**GATHERING            My Faith Looks Up to Thee #759**  
**(red hymnal, rear section)**

**My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!**  
**Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,**  
**oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;**  
**as thou has died for me, oh may my love to thee**  
**pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove;  
oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

**COME AND GATHER**

*Tree of Life liturgy  
Haugen/Briehl*

**REFRAIN**

**Come and gather beneath the tree of life.  
Come and gather beneath the tree of life.  
Root of wisdom, branch of peace, fruit of healing and release.  
Come and gather beneath the tree of life.**

*[Verses to be sung by the cantor.]*

**KYRIE**

*Tree of Life liturgy*

*[Verses to be sung by cantor.]*

**REFRAIN**

**Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,  
Lord, have mercy, mercy on us all.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

Let us pray together... **O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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: Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip,  
**“Get up and go toward the south**

**to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”**

(This is a wilderness road.)

So he got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace,  
queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury.

He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home;  
seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, **“Go over to this chariot and join it.”**

So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah.

He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

He replied, **“How can I, unless someone guides me?”**

And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip,

**“About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this,  
about himself or about someone else?”**

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture,  
he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus.

As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said,

**“Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”**

He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch,  
went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away;  
the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

**But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region,  
he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.**

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 22:25-31**

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the Lord give praise!**

**May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.**

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
 all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.  
**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,**  
**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**  
 They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
**saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"**

**Second Reading: I John 4:7-12**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;  
 everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.  
 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.  
**God's love was revealed among us in this way:**  
**God sent the only Son into the world so that we might live through him.**  
 In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us  
 and sent the Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.  
 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.  
 No one has ever seen God;  
**if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us.**

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Tree of Life liturgy*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**  
**For you have the words, you have the words, the words of eternal life.**  
**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Gospel Lesson: John 15:1-8**

[Jesus said:]

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.  
 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit.  
**Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.**  
 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.  
 Abide in me as I abide in you.  
**Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine,**  
**neither can you unless you abide in me.**  
 I am the vine, you are the branches.  
 Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,  
 because apart from me you can do nothing.  
 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers;  
 such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

**If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,  
ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.  
My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”**

This is the gospel indeed.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Brian Stein-Webber**

**SERMON HYMN      This Is My Father’s World #824 (red hymnal, rear section)**

**This is my Father’s world, and to my list’ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father’s world; I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.**

**This is my Father’s world; the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker’s praise.  
This is my Father’s world; he shines in all that’s fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev’rywhere.**

**This is my Father’s world; oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father’s world; why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring; God reigns let earth be glad!**

**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**

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and of all created things: for rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For the nations and all those in authority: for local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all those in need: for any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering, especially,

- Tim Gough - Aaron Brochtrup's father-in-law, recovering from a head-on vehicle crash
- Don Baccus – Mass on lung (Janet Lorenzo’s brother-in-law)
- Gary Brochtrup – recovering from eye surgery for torn retina
- Sean Cannoles, health issues (Nikki Rocha’s cousin)
- Charleigh- breast cancer (relative of Nikki Rocha)
- Eileen Bless- terminal cancer (Andy Jacoby’s aunt)
- Sally (in her 80’s)- recovering from broken hip and arm
- Danielle Shields – 43-year-old mom of 4 kids with breast cancer that has spread to her bones.
- Carolyn Wyatt – friend of Nancy Padilla Cancer, chemo/radiation for a year
- Kathie Sperow – dealing with a new condition
- Elaine Grawe – adjusting to living situation
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Christian, Heidi Carney’s son – for peace and comfort
- Katie Edson and family – death of their mother, Mercedes
- 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
- Denise Kenealy, daughter-in-law of Robin Karas – dealing with health issues
- James Hecker- for a permanent solution to his numerous health problems
- Iglesia San Juan Bautista, Pastor Esteban and Angie – support of their ministry

- Karin Wilcox, recovering from cancer and facing further treatments (Pastor Brian's aunt)
- An end to the war in Ukraine
- Peace and safety for the peoples of Israel and Palestine
- Victims of gun violence
- For Brenda Ouwerkerk- celebrating her birthday while traveling in Europe

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For this congregation: for the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

For those in our wider communities, we lift up out loud and in our hearts these ones whom we have not named yet, who are also in need of our prayers, especially,

*[You may name names at this time.]*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**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.... **Risen One,**  
**you call us to believe and bear fruit.**  
**May the gifts that we offer here**  
**be signs of your abiding love.**



Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.  
**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**

*Tree of Life liturgy*

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

*Tree of Life liturgy*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

## **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 MUSIC**

**Our God, Arr. Craig Curry**

**Jean Wilt**

**Behold the Lamb, Arr. Larry Shackley**

## **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:  
**Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us  
and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend.  
AMEN.**

## **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the Spirit of Easter hope

✠ bless you now and always.  
Amen.

**SENDING HYMN      A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing! (red hymnal, rear section)**

**A hymn of glory let us sing!  
New hymns throughout the world shall ring:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ by a road before untrod, ascends unto the throne of God.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The holy apostolic band upon the Mount of Olives stand,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
And with his faithful foll'wers see their Lord ascend in majesty.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**To whom the shining angels cry, "Why stand and gaze upon the sky?"  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
"This is the Savior!" thus they say, "this is his glorious triumph day!"  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**"You see him now, ascending high up to the portals of the sky."  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
"Hereafter Jesus you shall see returning in great majesty."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**O risen Christ, ascended Lord, all praise to you let earth accord:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

**Jesus Saves!**  
*Arr. Heather Sorenson*

**Jean Wilt**

Thank you to:

- **Jean Wilt**, for accompanying worship.
- **Jean Senter**, for assisting in worship.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Janet Lorenzo, David Ogren** and others for streaming worship.

- **Janet Lorenzo** for editing and assembling worship 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.
- **The Worship Planning Team**, for doing what their name says!

Events this week:

- We are continuing to learn a new liturgy today and through the Easter Season called *Tree of Life*, written by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl, who also wrote *Now the Feast and Celebration*.
- Today after worship there will be a **congregational brunch**, courtesy of Group 2. Please join us!
- **The discussion group on The Chosen** will continue tonight, 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Zoom, to view and talk about Season 4, Episode 4.
- The **Confirmation Class** will meet on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. The topic will be the history of the Christian church.
- Pastor Brian's **study on the book *The Great Angel*** by Margaret Barker is postponed until Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The **Sermon Feedback and Feedforward** meeting will be on Zoom Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 to 11:00 am.
- **The Regular Bible Study** will take place on Wednesday, May 1st at 10:00 to 11:00 am in the fellowship hall.
- Let Pastor Brian know if you would like to **start receiving his weekly emails**. (bsteinwebber@gmail.com)