



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

November 26, 2023
Cosmic Christ Sunday



PRELUDE**John Cribb****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****Pastor Brian Stein-Webber****ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation.
Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus we are forgiven, by Jesus we are welcome,
in Jesus we are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

GATHERING Praise to the Lord, the Almighty #858 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.**

**Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

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.

KYRIE

Now the Feast and Celebration booklet p. 3

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

NTFAC booklet p. 4

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!

Let us pray together.

**O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of
your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made,
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: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

*(The congregation will read the **bold** words.)*

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep.

**I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered
on a day of clouds and thick darkness.**

I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses,
and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

**I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture;
there they shall lie down in good grazing land,
and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.**

I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

**I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed,
and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak,
but the fat and the strong I will destroy.**

I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them:

I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

**Because you pushed with flank and shoulder,
and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide,
I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged;**

and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them:
he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

**And I, the Lord, will be their God,
and my servant David shall be prince among them;**

I, the Lord, have spoken.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95:1-7a

*(The congregation responds with the **bold** words)*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For the Lord is our God,

and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23*(The congregation reads the **bold** words.)*

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,
 and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you
 as I remember you in my prayers.

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,
 may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,
 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,
 you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,
 what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,
 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe,
 according to the working of God's great power.

**God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead
 and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,
 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,
 and above every name that is named,
 not only in this age but also in the age to come.**

And God has put all things under his feet
 and has made Christ the head over all things for the church,
 which is Christ's body, the fullness of the one who fills all in all.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia #174

(red hymnal, rear section)

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:31-46

The gospel lesson for this Cosmic Christ Sunday is from the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, beginning with the 31st verse.

Glory to you, O God.

*(The congregation shall read the **bold** words.)*

[Jesus said to the disciples:]

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him,
 then he will sit on the throne of his glory.

All the nations will be gathered before him,

and he will separate people one from another

as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,

and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand,

‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father,

inherit the kingdom prepared for you

from the foundation of the world;

for I was hungry and you gave me food,
 I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
 I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
 I was naked and you gave me clothing,
 I was sick and you took care of me,
 I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him,

**'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food,
 or thirsty and gave you something to drink?**

**And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you,
 or naked and gave you clothing?**

And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them,

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these
 who are members of my family you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand,

'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire
 prepared for the devil and his angels;

for I was hungry and you gave me no food,
 I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
 naked and you did not give me clothing,
 sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer,

**'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty
 or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison,
 and did not take care of you?'**

Then he will answer them,

'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these,
 you did not do it to me.'

And these will go away into eternal punishment,
 but the righteous into eternal life."

This is the gospel indeed.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Brian

**SERMON HYMN When Long Before Time #861
 (red hymnal, rear section)**

**When long before time and the worlds were begun,
 when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
 and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
 and even our Maker had only a dream –**

**The silence was broken when God sang the Song,
 and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
 and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
 and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.**

The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord,
 their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
 the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song,
 the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.

Though down through the ages the Song disappeared,
 its harmonies broken and almost unheard,
 the Singer comes to us to sing it again,
 our God-is-with-us in the world now as then.

The Light has returned as it came once before,
 the Song of the Lord is our own song once more,
 so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
 the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.

To you God the Singer, our voices we raise,
 to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,
 to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
 be glory forever, through life and through death.

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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer, especially,

- Wyatt Owen – 1 month old great nephew of Katie Edson – RSV in critical care
- Tom Bauer – recovering from surgery
- Joyce Bauer – recovering from double surgery
- Elaine Grawe
- Nancy Padilla – multiple dental procedures
- Becky Padilla – dealing with recurrence of cancer
- Robin Karas – Home from Bayside and recovering
- Christian – Heidi Carney’s son – dealing with multiple ailments
- Barbara Stein, Tom Anello’s sister – dealing with resurfacing cancer
- Jim Luke and family – in the death of his wife, Linda
- 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 frontal temporal lobe dementia and aphasia.
- Heidi Carney – Puzzling spots in her lungs
- Kate Anderson
- Ina Davenport – preparing to move to assisted living
- 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 an end to the war in Ukraine
- For the earthquake victims in Afghanistan
- For the people of Israel and Palestine
- Victims of senseless gun violence
- For Beverly Flaten, Herb Harsch and Karen Vail who celebrate their birthdays this week

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation, especially with the people of Iglesia Santa Cruz and the people who partake of community dinners in Los Osos and Morro Bay. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you know each one, so we pray 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.]

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us. Unite us with them as one body of Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share that peace with one another.

OFFERING SONG Create in Me a Clean Heart #186 (red hymnal, rear section)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

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

NTFAC booklet p. 11

**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.]

You are invited to bring to the altar pictures or names of loved ones, to exemplify that whole hosts of believers who have come and will come to the table of blessing.]

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

THANKS BE TO YOU

NTFAC booklet p. 15

**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:

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
AMEN.

BLESSING

May the God of all creation,
 in whose image we are made,
 who claims us and calls us beloved,
 who strengthens us for service,
 give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
 The blessing of God,
 Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,
 be with you today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN Come Ye Thankful People, Come #693 (red hymnal, rear section)

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,
 go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Thank you to:

- **Brenda Ouwerkerk** for being worship assistant.
- **John Cribb** for accompanying.
- **Sandy McMillan and others** for counting the offering.
- **Nikki Rocha and Kathie Sperow** 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, Mike Lorenzo and Gary Brochtrup** for their handyman work.
- **The Church Council**, for leading our congregation.

Events this week:

- **The discussion group on *The Chosen*** will not be meeting tonight. We will gather next on Sunday, December 3rd at 7:00 pm on Zoom to discuss the Christmas programs of *The Chosen*.
- **Sermon Feedback and Feedforward** will be on Zoom on Monday, November 27th, starting at 9:30 am. If you want to join, please speak with Pastor Brian and he will send you an invitation. Next Sunday's Bible passages will be Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, and Mark 13:24-37.
- **Confirmation** will take place on Monday, November 27th at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. The topic will be the **Psalms**.
- **Bible Study** will take place on Wednesday, November 29th at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall. The subject will be *Resistance, Adaptation and the Maccabees*.
- If you would like to participate in **Project Angel Tree** this year with Iglesia Santa Cruz, please contact Nancy Padilla.
- If you wish to participate in **decorating the sanctuary** for Christmas on Saturday, December 2nd, starting at 9:30 am, please speak with Gail Brochtrup.
- If you would like to be a part of the **new prayer chain** forming for those who have urgent prayer needs, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or talk to Nancy Padilla.
- 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