



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

February 14, 2024
Ash Wednesday



PRELUDE**WELCOME**

Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

GATHERING SONG Be Thou My Vision #793 (red hymnal, rear section)

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.
Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

Hear the good news:
 God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
 so that all may receive life.
 This promise is for you!
 God embraces you with divine mercy,
 † forgives you in Christ's name,
 and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

[Please come forward as you wish and receive the imposition of ashes on your forehead,
 with the word, "From dust you have come, and to dust you shall return"]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,
**Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the
 sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly
 repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon
 and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and
 reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**
Amen.

SONG In All Our Grief #615 (red hymnal, rear section)

**In all our grief and fear we turn to you.
 O God, you know all that we think or do,
 you know the pain we put each other through.
 Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, grant us peace.**

**Help us to put aside the angry word,
 the clenching fist, the wish and will to hurt.
 Teach us the way in which love best is served.
 Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, grant us peace.**

**You did not even spare your only Son.
 He lived our griefs and bore all evil done,
 but through his cross, redemption has been won.
 Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, grant us peace.**

**God, when we suffer all that we can bear,
 then let us know that you in truth are near
 and will not leave us lost in all our fear.
 Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, grant us peace.**

PSALM 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

**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 to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The gospel passage for Ash Wednesday is from Matthew, the 6th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:]

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

**But when you give alms,
do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
so that your alms may be done in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.**

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

**But whenever you pray,
go into your room and shut the door
and pray to your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.**

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

**But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,
so that your fasting may be seen not by others
but by your Father who is in secret;
and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.**

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;

**but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust consumes
and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This is the gospel indeed.

Praise to you, O Christ.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES OR DIRT

MEDITATION

Pastor Brian Stein-Webber

HYMN OF THE DAY 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,
not 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, have promised to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

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.

You call us to return to you, steadfast God. Renew a right spirit within the church and cleanse the hearts of your people. Strengthen those who proclaim your gospel in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustain your creation, generous God. Supply all that is needful for life to flourish. Protect endangered species and fragile habitats. Teach us to live lightly upon the earth and to honor it as our home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You seek justice and peace, righteous God. Rebuild cities and homelands devastated by war in Gaza and Ukraine and Congo. Provide welcome, help, and safety to refugees. Prosper negotiations that lead to lasting peace among the nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You care for all people, loving God. Heal any who are scarred by violence, addiction, or trauma of any kind. Comfort those who grieve and bring relief to any in pain. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You gather this assembly, abiding God. Unite us in serving our neighbors and working for justice. We pray for caregivers and people who are hospitalized, in treatment, or recovering from illness. 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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

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 (spoken)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the 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.**

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 146

**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 peace.**

TAKING OF HOLY COMMUNION

[All who desire may come forward to take the body and blood of Christ.]

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

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.

Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE