



SAN MARCOS LUTHERAN CHURCH
3419 Grand Avenue . San Marcos, CA 92078 . (760) 727-1509
www.sanmarcoslutheran.org

Pr. Casey Kloehn Dunsworth

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

Welcome to worship!

Throughout the service, you will be invited to sit, stand, or kneel as you are able and as you feel comfortable.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion, for it is Christ who does the inviting. An usher will let you know when it is your row's turn to come forward. Bread, gluten-free wafers, red wine, and white juice are all available. Please tell the pastor you need a gluten-free wafer when it is your turn.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

PRELUDE

'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming', arranged by Sally DeFord

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY TIME OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

GATHERING SONG- *The congregation is invited to stand.*

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(Verses 5-6)

Hymnal #257

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS- *The congregation is invited to stand, sit, or kneel, as able.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned.**

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

SONG- VERSE 3

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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WORD -The congregation may be seated.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival."

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

ISAIAH 12

Cry out with joy and glad - ness; for a - mong you is the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves. The second system also has a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my savior.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name, Sing a psalm to the Lord.

For he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - *The congregation is invited to stand, as able.*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. "So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly is invited into prayer:

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. *(A brief silence)*

After each petition, "Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer."

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The congregation greets one another with the words "peace be with you" or "God's peace" and a sign of peace—a wave, a handshake, a peace sign, etc.

MEAL

SPECIAL MUSIC Tomas Erkmanis "Joy to the World" and Mila Erkmanis "Carol of the Bells" on piano

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING- *The congregation is invited to stand, as able.*

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.

The presiding minister continues:

Mystery of winter skies, we thank you in the darkening hour for opening our eyes to see your starlit beauty; for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light; for offering your Word to take on our mortal flesh. He was promised by those who shared your dream of peace; John the Baptist cleared his way with words of desert fire; Mary and Joseph accepted his coming with tenderness and faith; we know that he draws near again to show us who we really are with honesty and love. Now we take up the song of hope, that we might awaken to his coming among us and the world be touched by the footfall of his glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We ask that your Holy Spirit will fall upon these gifts,
that these fragile, earthly things
may be to us the body and blood of our lord and brother, Jesus Christ;
who, on the night that he was betrayed,
gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom.
Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

“This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this to remember me.”

In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying:

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.”

As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste
beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, in our eating and drinking
we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ;
we proclaim him as creation’s host,
transforming poverty into plenty
in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope
that one day death and greed will be no more
and people without number
will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom and with whom and in whom
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honor and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Steven Shakespeare, Prayers for an Inclusive Church, Church Publishing (New York, NY: 2009).

THE LORD’S PRAYER

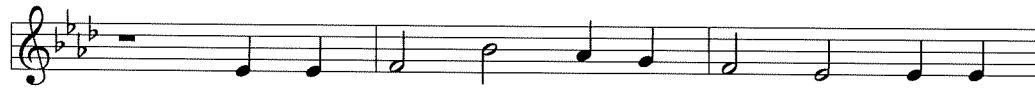
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

DISTRIBUTION

Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly



1 Sing of Mar - y, pure and low - ly, vir - gin
 2 Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, in the
 3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; glo - ry



moth-er, wise and mild. Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, who be -
 home at Naz - a - reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry love en -
 be to God the Son; glo - ry be to God the Spir - it; glo - ry



came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of fair - est moth - er, God the
 dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the love he gave her, though he
 to the Three in One. From the heart of bless - ed Mar - y, from all



Lord who came to earth, Word made flesh, our ver - y
 went forth from her side, forth to preach, and heal, and
 saints the song as - cends, and the church the strain re -



broth - er, takes our na - ture by his birth.
 suf - fer, till on Cal - va - ry he died.
 ech - oes un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

Text: Roland F. Palmer, 1891-1985

Music: RAQUEL, Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1944-1992

Music © 1985 Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo

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Hymnal #262

Wait for the Lord



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and Music ©1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG- *The congregation is invited to stand, as able.*

Hymnal #248

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

We invite you to remain seated quietly for the postlude. If you exit during the postlude, please refrain from conversation until you are outside of the sanctuary. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in Luther Hall immediately following the service.

POSTLUDE

‘Sonata IV, Movement 2’ by Felix Mendelssohn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Koln, 1710; tr. Composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2,6,7 @1997 Augsburg Fortress All reprinted and streamed under OneLicense.net #A-706220

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher/Presider: Pr. Casey Kloehn Dunsworth

Assisting Minister: Anne Voth

Musicians: Justin Hershey and Max Chodos

Lector: Karla Strazicich-Cain

Ushers: Kelly Black and Sharon McEwan

Altar flowers were donated this week by Ed & Sheri Mossuto in celebration of Sheri’s Mom, Joan’s 89th Birthday! Happy Birthday Joan!

All are welcome! As a community of the people of God, the members of San Marcos Lutheran Church are called to welcome all people, regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female.” (Galatians 3:28)

Are you new to San Marcos Lutheran Church? Pastor Casey would love the opportunity to get to know you, and has put together a short, confidential, online form. Your smartphone's QR reader can take you to it using this code.

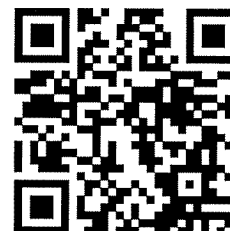
If technology isn't your cup of tea (or if it just isn't working for you today) there are cream-colored cards in the pew in front of you, which you can fill out and put in the silver offering plates, hand to an usher, or hand to Pastor Casey after the service. We're glad you're here!



Let Us Keep These People in Our Prayers: Susan Agonia, Don Arney, Dawn, Christine Buma, Jim Cavolt, Sue Check, Bill Hanson, Jolene Hanson, Pete Johnson, Jim Kent, Linda Kent, Susan Kent, Gary Kloehn, Laura, Deborah McGregor, Melinda Nelson, Leanne Pohrman, Alvar Roy, Vern Soderstrom, Marilynne Smith, Dawn Steele, Louise Testerman, Elijah Toler, Nick Torres, Kelly Van Jen. Let us pray for our homebound members: Dottie Black, Beverly Gift, Janice Phillips, and Carol Schwartz. We also continue to pray for: Pacifica Synod Bishop David Nagler and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Thank you for supporting the ministry of San Marcos Lutheran Church! **Your generosity enables us to do God’s work in our community.** Your contributions to our general fund support our budgeted expenses—we cannot do it without your support!

You can contribute in any of the following ways:



- Place a check or cash in the silver offering plates at the back of the sanctuary on Sundays;
- Mail a check to the church office (3419 Grand Ave. San Marcos, CA 92078);
- Set up a recurring donation through your bank;
- Make a one-time or recurring donation with your credit or debit card or bank account through Tithe.ly, our online giving portal. Visit sanmarcoslutheran.org/give to get started.

Your smartphone’s QR reader can take you there by scanning this code. *San Marcos Lutheran Church is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your gift may be tax-deductible.*

Audio & Visual Volunteers Needed

Help enhance our Sunday Worship experience! Our Communications Coordinator, Adriana Alfaro, is seeking volunteers to assist with Audio and Visual equipment. No experience necessary - training provided! Contact us to learn more and sign up! email: comms@sanmarcoslutheran.org

Congregational Meeting- Today, immediately following the service.

After worship, we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 1, to elect council and committee members.

Poinsettia Dedication Forms- Please return by TODAY.

In keeping with our celebration of Christmas, we invite you to donate \$15 in memory or honor of a loved one. This will assist us with the flowers that beautify the altar. A list of the donors and celebrations will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Advent Reflections- Dec 22, 3pm @ SMLC

Find peace this holiday season with Musica Viva Chamber's Advent Reflections: Light and Hope, which explores readings by various authors and spiritual leaders and features music specifically reflective of the themes of light and hope. This concert offers an escape from the everyday worry and the hectic-ness of the season and provides a respite and an opportunity for reflection and reduction of the inherent stress that always seems to be present at this time of the year.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 7pm, with music beginning at 6:30pm.

Women's Retreat

Save the Date for our Women's Retreat, Feb 28-March 2 at Luther Glen. Stay tuned for more information!

