

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

Pr. Casey Kloehn Dunsworth

Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2025

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

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY TIME OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

MOMENT FOR MISSION- BUDGET COMMITTEE

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

THY WORD

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path.

When I feel afraid,
think I've lost my way,
still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear
as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.

Now I will not forget
Your love for me and yet
my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide
And hold me to Your side,
And I will love You to the end.

Nothing will I fear
As long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path,
You're a light unto my path.

Words and Music by Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant

WORD -*The congregation may be seated.*

FIRST READING

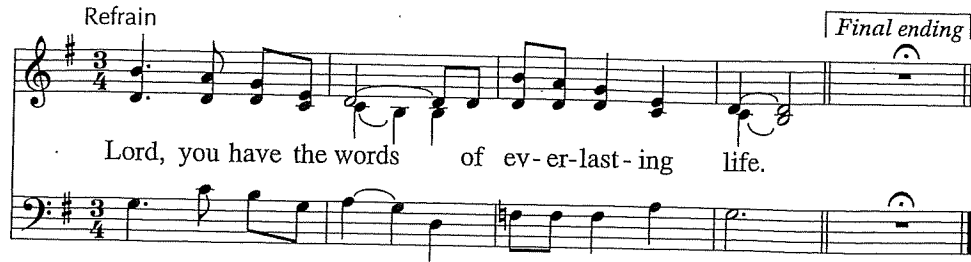
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

PSALM 19



The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul,
The Lord's rule is to be trusted, the simple find wisdom.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding forever;
The decrees of the Lord are true, all of them just.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart,
The command of the Lord is clear, giving light to the eye.

They are worth more than gold, than the finest gold,
Sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

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



The holy gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly is invited into prayer:

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

(A brief silence)

*After each petition, "God of grace, **hear our prayer.**"*

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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

“Children of the Heavenly Father” Arr. by Dan Forrest

Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always
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: Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you have caused all things to be; from dust and spirit, you have woven our humanity; in all our wanderings, you never cease to call us to fullness of life. You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life, broken for the world; he fed us and feasted with us; he healed us and suffered for us; his dying and rising have set us free from the poverty of sin and the famine of death. Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished, and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we take up the song of your praise:

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

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

DISTRIBUTION

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,



Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.
Amen.

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

Hymnal #710

Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

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

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NOTICE OF RECORDING: Please be aware that by attending this service, you may be recorded by video and/or audio equipment. By attending this service, you consent to being recorded for live streaming purposes.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher/Presider: Pr. Casey Kloehn Dunsworth

Assisting Minister: Anne Voth

Musicians: Justin Hershey, Beth Sullivan and Max Chodos

Lector: Karla Strazicich-Cain

Ushers: Jack Anderson and Louise Testerman

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!

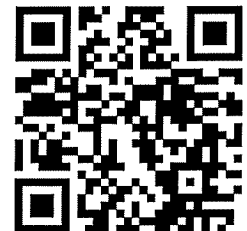


Let Us Keep These People in Our Prayers: Susan Agonia, Dawn, Christine Buma, Jim Cavolt, Sue Check, Bill Hanson, Jolene Hanson, Pete Johnson, Jim Kent, Linda Kent, Susan Kent, Gary Kloehn, Laura, Deborah McGregor, Melinda Nelson, Leanne Pohrman, Alvar Roy, Vern Soderstrom, Marilynne Smith, Dawn Steele, Nick Torres, Kelly Van Jen. Let us pray for our homebound members: 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](https://www.tithe.ly), our online giving portal. Visit [sanmarcoslutheran.org/give](https://www.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

Registration is Open for the Women's Retreat!

We are heading up to Luther Glen Farm & Retreat Center February 28-March 2 for a Women's Retreat. Our theme this year is *Restore* and we'll be wondering about how God works to restore our spirits, bodies, communities, and the earth. The registration form is available on the SMLC website, can be emailed to you, or you can fill one out on paper; get more info in the narthex on your way out. Next Sunday, February 2 there will be a table at coffee hour for FAQ with retreat committee members and previous retreat-goers. Contact Pastor Casey with any questions about registration or the cost, as assistance is available.

ALL SAINTS FOOD PANTRY

Thanks for all the jelly and jam in January. It's all gone! We would be very happy if you would continue to donate those items, as that's typically not something available from the Food Bank. We continue to serve approximately 35 households, which includes approximately 100 family members. Most have housing but are struggling financially. They are very grateful for this food assistance. We always have a few who are living in their cars. Humanity Showers offer free mobile showers and breakfast at All Saints Episcopal Church every Friday morning. Then some of those clients return on the 3rd and 4th Saturday for our Food Pantry. This mutual ministry with All Saints Episcopal is a blessing to many people. Thank you for continuing to be a part of this program.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod and Pacifica Synod to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to address immediate needs amid the destruction and assist with recovery efforts for months and years to come.

If you would like to donate to this response, donations can be made at www.give.elca.org or you can write a check to SMLC with note in memo to Lutheran Disaster Relief/LA fires.

Did you forget something? The budget committee met to work on numbers for 2025 and noticed that far fewer folks turned in their pledge commitments than in 2024. It's okay if you forgot! You didn't miss your chance. If you would like to submit a pledge now, please fill out a card and place it in the offering plate, or you can contact Cristen at bookkeeper@sanmarcoslutheran.org about your plans. The budget committee uses pledge numbers as one of the factors in setting our budget for the new year, and a gap in the data means they have less information to work with. Help them out! Contact council president Dan Norris with any questions.