



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

Pr. Casey Kloehn Dunsworth

**First Sunday in Lent
March 9, 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

'The Glory of These Forty Days', arranged by J. Klug

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY TIME OF PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
 There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,



teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
 may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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WORD -*The congregation may be seated.*

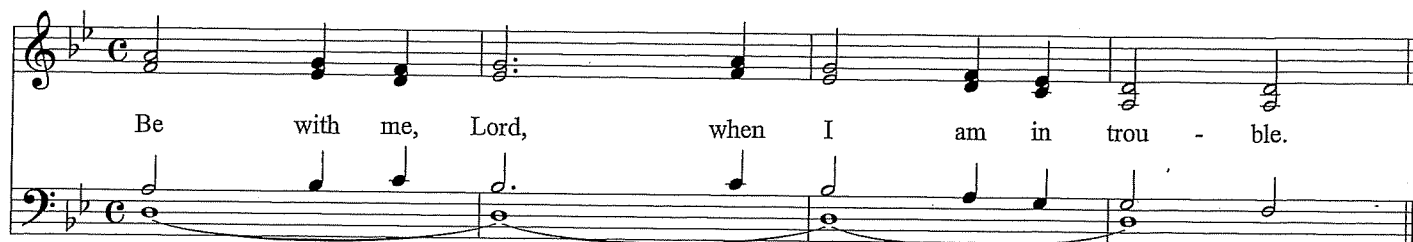
FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

“When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A

wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

PSALM 91



He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, and abides in the shadow of the Almighty,
Says to the Lord "My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust.

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach your tent,
For you he has commanded his angels to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone,
On the lion and the viper you will tread, and trample the young lion and the serpent.

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will be with him in distress;
I will deliver him, and give him glory.

SECOND READING

Romans 10:8b-13

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

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 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly is invited into prayer:

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(A brief silence)

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

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **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

"The Glory of These Forty Days" - arr. Robert Below

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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:

We thank you, desert Mother, for in the valley of dry bones you create hearts of flesh
quickened by the Spirit's breath. We thank you, wise Sister, that you walk in cloud and fire with your lost and
faithless people. We thank you, Son of Heaven, that you empty yourself of might and glory
and set your face toward the fickle crowd, the cruel empire, and faithful despisers.
We welcome you as God's own fool, whose cross brings to nothing the violence of the world
and reveals another wisdom outside the city walls. Therefore, with all who follow your way,
and all who caught a glimpse of your glory in the humanity you shared,
we worship God's own holiness revealed in sweat and tears:



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

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

Bread of Life from Heaven

Refrain

Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1	Break	now	the	bread	of	Christ's	sac - ri - fice;	giv - ing
2	Seek	not	the	food	that	will	pass a - way;	set your
3	Love	as	the	one	who,	in	love for you,	gave him -
4	Dwell	in	the	one	who	now	dwells in you;	make your
5	Drink	of	this	cup	and	de -	clare his death;	eat this



thanks,	hun - gry	ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en - dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one
home	in	the	life -	giv - ing	Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly	
bread	and	be - lieve	Eas - ter	morn;	trust	his	re - turn	and,	with	

Refrain

sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres -	ence	the	loaves	will	a -	bound.
liv - ing	way,	that	the	full -	ness	of	life	may	be
food	for	you,	that	your	hun -	ger	and	thirst	be
One	of	God,	and	be -	lieve	in	the	truth	you
ev - 'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you	are	re -
									born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952

Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Hymnal #325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

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 and Max Chodos

Lector: Diana Arney

Ushers: Tom Andreas and Jack Anderson

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.

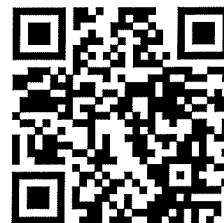
If technology isn't your cup of tea (or if it just isn't working for you today) there are cream-colored cards in the pew in front of you, which you can fill out and put in the silver offering plates, hand to an usher, or hand to Pastor Casey after the service. We're glad you're here!



Let Us Keep These People in Our Prayers: Susan Agonia, Christine Buma, Jim Cavolt, Sue Check, Steve Choi, Bill Hanson, Jolene Hanson, Jeff Hey, 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, 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

ALL SAINTS FOOD PANTRY

Thanks for all the spaghetti sauce and grape jelly. We would be happy if you would continue to donate those items. Strawberry or apricot jam would be a treat. Canned corn is also popular and not always available from the Food Bank. Our mutual ministry with All Saints Episcopal is a blessing to many people. Our clients are very grateful for this food assistance. Thank you for continuing to be a part of this program.

Pastor Casey's Book Club is back! For Lent, we're moving away from scarcity with Robin Wall Kimmerer's 2024 book *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*. We'll discuss the book in two parts, on March 23 and on April 6, both at Community Time after worship. It's a very short book (105 small pages, under 2 hours on audio) so consider sharing a copy with a friend between now and then! Questions? Contact Pastor Casey.

Offering envelopes for 2025 are now available in the Narthex. Please pick up yours today! Please let the office know if you do not have a box and would like one.