



**Pr. Casey Kloehn Dunsworth**

**Third Sunday in Lent**  
**March 23, 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 'Eat This Bread', arranged by Malcolm Kogut

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

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

1. Here, O Lord, Your servants gather,

Hand we link with hand;

Looking toward our Savior's cross,

Joined in love we stand.

As we seek the realm of God,

We unite to pray:

Jesus, Savior, guide our steps,

For You are the Way.

2. Many are the tongues we speak,

Scattered are the lands,

Yet our hearts are one in God,

One in love's demands.

E'en in darkness hope appears,

Calling age and youth:

Jesus, teacher, dwell with us,

For You are the Truth.

3. Nature's secrets open wide,

Changes never cease;

Where, O where, can weary souls

Find the source of peace?

Unto all those sore distressed,

Torn by endless strife:

Jesus, healer, bring Your balm,

For You are the Life.

4. Grant, O God, an age renewed,

Filled with deathless love;

Help us as we work and pray,

Send us from above

Truth and courage, faith and power

Needed in our strife:

Jesus, Savior, be our way,

Be our truth, our life.

**WORD** -*The congregation may be seated.*

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

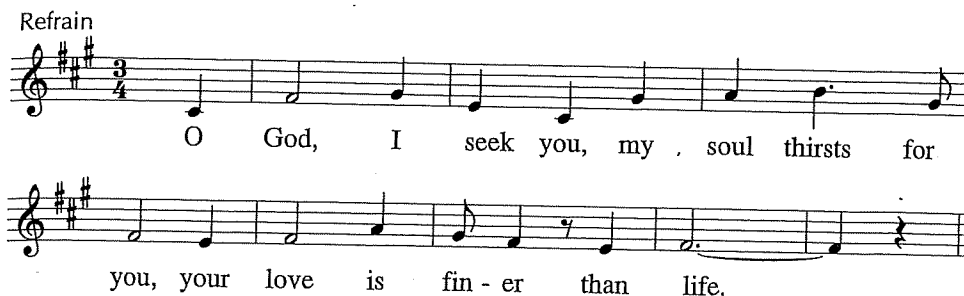
Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

# PSALM 63



As a dry and weary desert land, so my soul is thirsting for my God,  
And my flesh is faint for the God I seek, for your love is more to me than life.

I think of you when at night I rest, I reflect upon your steadfast love,  
I will cling to you, O Lord my God, in the shadow of your wings I sing.

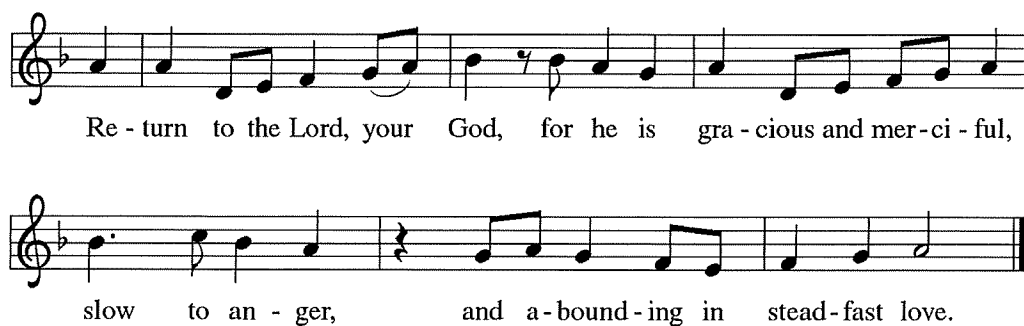
I will bless your name all the days I live, I will raise my hands and call on you,  
My joyful lips shall sing your praise, you alone have filled my hungry soul.

## SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

## Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



*Refrain*

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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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

"Be Not Far" - Michael M. Buckley

Choir

## 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.**

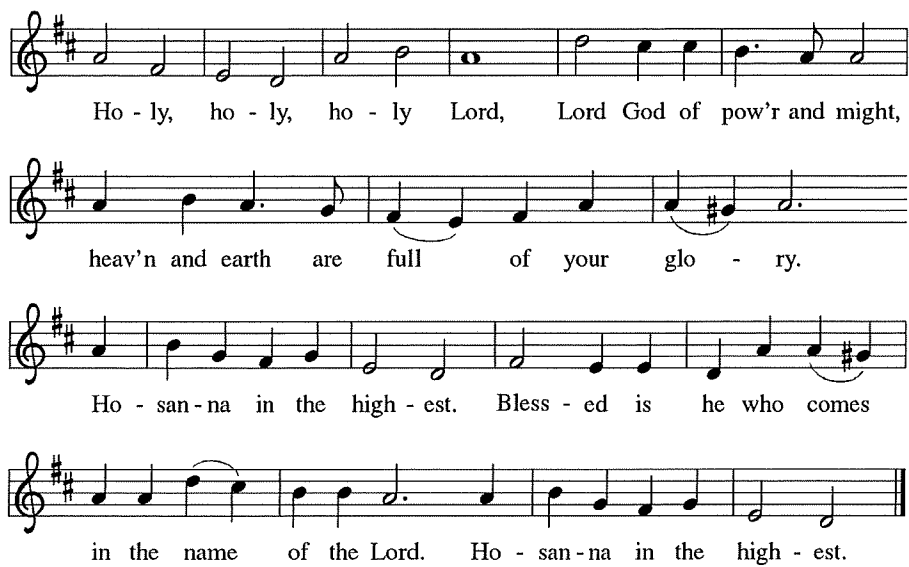
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**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



## Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

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## Hymnal #472

### Eat This Bread *Jesus Christ, Bread of Life*

*Refrain*

"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."  
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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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 #328

## Restore in Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

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

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

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## 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

'Lenten Prayer', by Franklin Ritter

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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: Diana and Don Arney

*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.

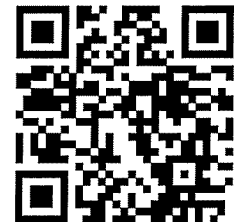
If technology isn't your cup of tea (or if it just isn't working for you today) there are cream-colored cards in the pew in front of you, which you can fill out and put in the silver offering plates, hand to an usher, or hand to Pastor Casey after the service. We're glad you're here!



**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, Jake & Sarah Simpson, 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](http://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](mailto: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.

## **Team Holy Week**

Pastor Casey needs your help to prepare Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday services and fellowship! If you can help out with things like coordinating your fellow volunteers, setting tables, arranging carpools, stuffing easter eggs, or assembling potlucks, you'd be a great fit for Team Holy Week. Call the office 760-727-1509 or email Pastor Casey [pastor@sanmarcoslutheran.org](mailto:pastor@sanmarcoslutheran.org) to sign up or learn more about the specifics.

## **PROJECT HOMEBOUND**

You are invited to join us at Community Time, TODAY after church for a discussion on renewing our visiting and offering communion to the homebound. Your input and ideas are very important to us. Also, please consider joining our team. Questions call Brother Jack at 760-842-2033 or Diana Arney at 760-703-05124.

**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, today 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.