



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 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

‘Behold the Lamb’, by Martin Willett, 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

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Awesome God

Our God is an awe - some God, he
reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,
pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!
Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

Text and music: Rich Mullins
Text and music © 1988 BMG Music Publishing

WORD -*The congregation may be seated.*

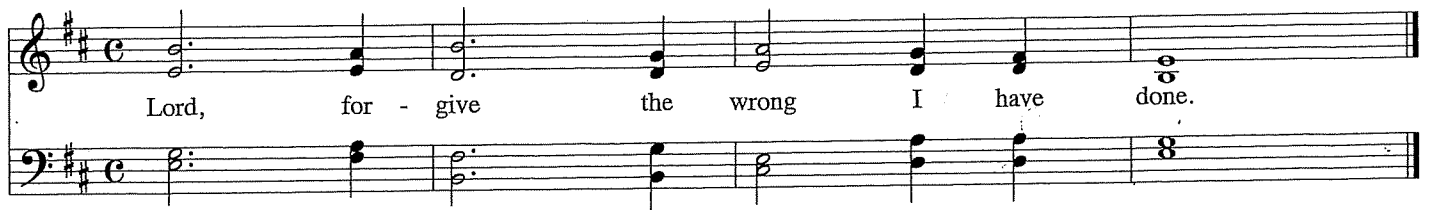
FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

PSALM 32 - Lord, Forgive the Wrong I have Done



Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.
Blessed the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile.

To you I have acknowledged, acknowledged my sin, my guilt I did not hide.
I said "I will confess my transgression to the Lord." And you have forgiven the guilt of my sin.

You are a hiding place for me; you keep me safe from distress;
You surround me with cries, with cries of deliverance, you surround me with cries of deliverance.

Rejoice in the Lord, you just! rejoice in the Lord.
Ring out your joy, all you upright of heart! Ring out your joy.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 15th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

“Lonesome Valley/ We Shall Walk” - arr. Tyler Mabry

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.

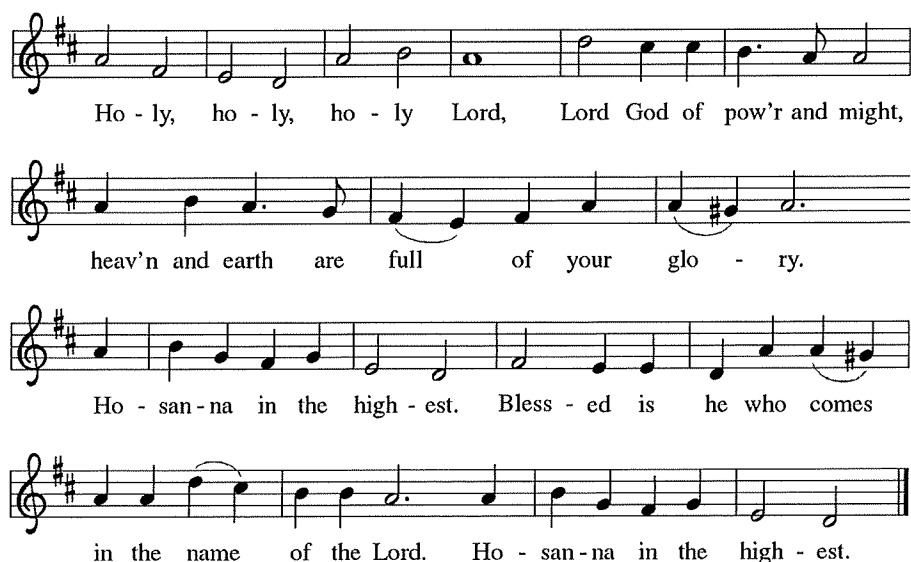
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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

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

Now the Silence



Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed



Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come



Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing



Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion



Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing



Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny



Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

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 #763

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

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

‘Rejoice Greatly O my Soul’, harmonized by J.S. Bach

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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, Max Chodos and Beth Sullivan

Lector: Karla Strazicich-Cain

Ushers: Liz Starr and Eleanor Adcock

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.

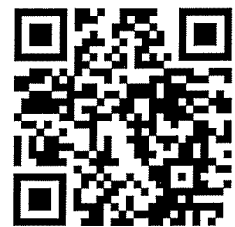
If technology isn't your cup of tea (or if it just isn't working for you today) there are cream-colored cards in the pew in front of you, which you can fill out and put in the silver offering plates, hand to an usher, or hand to Pastor Casey after the service. We're glad you're here!



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 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 For April, how about picking up multiples of anything appropriate that's on sale at your favorite grocery store? Or, we never get things like ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, or salad dressings from the Food Bank. Those items would be great any time. Thank you for continuing to be a part of this mutual ministry with All Saints Episcopal Church in Vista. Wish you could hear all the thank-you's from our clients. New people come in very hesitant but leave with multiple bags and very big smiles. Repeat clients are always thankful and also eager to see what we have for them on these two Saturdays of the month.

Easter Egg Donations

Donations are being sought now through Palm Sunday, April 13th, of individually wrapped candy to put in plastic Easter eggs. Donations can be placed in the bin in the narthex.

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 to sign up or learn more about the specifics.

PROJECT HOMEBOUND

We are renewing our visitations and offering communion to the homebound. 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 on April 6, at Community Time after worship. Questions? Contact Pastor Casey.