

SAN MARCOS LUTHERAN CHURCH

3419 Grand Avenue . San Marcos, CA 92078 . (760) 727-1509 . www.sanmarcoslutheran.org
Deacon Margy Schmitt Ajer

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022 11:00 a.m.**

Our mission is to know, accept, and live the love of God, and share it with others.
Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, we welcome you!

PRELUDE

“People Look East” Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

GATHERING

WELCOME/COMMUNITY TIME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God’s name forever. Amen

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence for reflection

God of new beginnings,

We confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,

That we may bear fruit worthy of repentance and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

People of God,

A new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✝ Christ, and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN (*stand*)

“Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn”



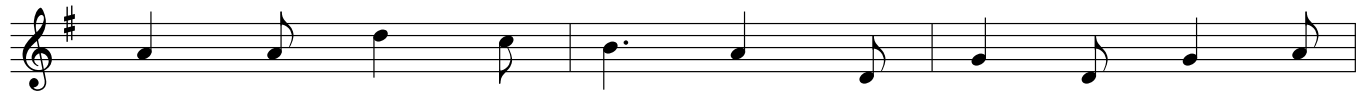
1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels her - ald its
2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u - el comes a
3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the world is de -
4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though dark the win - ter and



dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for now he is born, be - hold! the
sing - ing, his hum - ble song is qui - et and near, yet fills the
spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and free, so warm and
cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with light, be strong and



Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to
earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and
gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the
lov - ing and fear - less; love be our song and love our prayer, and



bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens wide the
hymns of lov - ing kind - ness, the thun - der of his
lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be raised a -
love, our end - less sto - ry, may God fill ev - 'ry



heav'n - ly door and lives now in - side us for ev - er.
an - thems roll to shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
day we share, and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray....

Stir up your power, Lord Christ and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

BLESSING: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **Amen.**

ADVENT SONG- VERSE 1-4

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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SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

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 image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 1st Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Stirring Up Love”

HYMN (stand)

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, with wings as drift - ed snow, with
 2. “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be, all gen - er - a - tions laud and
 3. Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; “To me be as it pleas - eth
 4. Of her Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born in Beth - le - hem all on a
 eyes as flame: “All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 hon - or thee; thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told
 God,” she said. “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 Christ - mas morn, and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,”

CREED Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly is invited into prayer: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. (A brief silence)

After each petition, ‘God, in your mercy’ ... “hear our prayer.” God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of peace

SPECIAL MUSIC

“A Shoot Shall Come Forth” by Richard Horn

Choir

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

Eternal God,

You make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money

and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

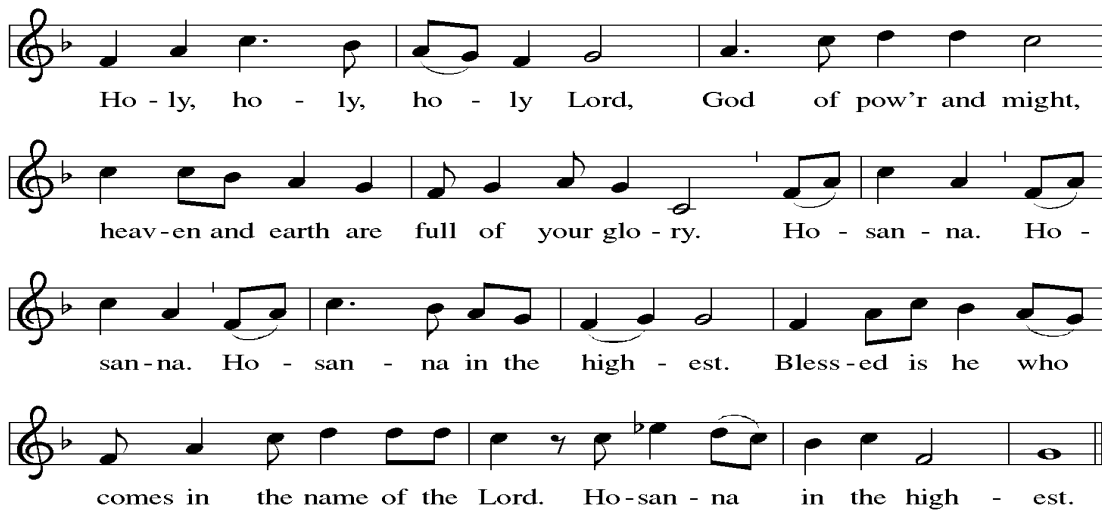
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 (*sit*)

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Refrain

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

TABLE BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Faithful God,

In this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING**BLESSING**

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“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!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“In Dulce Jubilo” arr. Hal Leonard

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE; Marty Haugen, b.1950; © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.

“The Angel Gabriel” Text: Basque Carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924; Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE; Basque Carol

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Text: *Psalterium Cationum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

“Prepare the Royal Highway” Text: Taizé Community, 1984; Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; © 1994, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher/Liturgist: Deacon Margy Schmitt Ajer

Assisting Minister: Anne Voth

Lector: Pastor Dell Olson

Musicians: Doris Payne and Max Chodos

Ushers: Ludette McNichols and Sharon Phelps

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)

Let Us Keep These People in Our Prayers: Eleanor Adcock, Jerry Farrell, Owen Frantz, Linda Kent, Cassi Kidd, Gwen, Victoria Kautz, Ray & Judith Moore, Mark McGregor, Melinda Nelson, Rene, Alvar Roy, Randy Sensmeier, Roy Smith, and Vern Soderstrom.

Let us pray for our homebound members: Dottie Black, Beverly Gift, Janice Phillips, Carol Schwartz and Martha Stover. We also continue to pray for: Pacifica Synod Bishop David Nagler, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Thank you for your Financial Support!

Just a reminder that the ministries of San Marcos Lutheran have continued through all the transitions of the last few years. We are grateful for all that you have done, and all that you have given. As we reinvigorate our ministries of worship, faith formation, evangelism, and social action, and as we prepare for a new chapter of ministry with a new pastor, it is vitally important that we remain financially healthy.

Please prayerfully consider what you can offer to the work of this congregation, as we seek to serve God's mission. Thank you for being a part of this community of faith!

(Offerings are accepted through your own bank's electronic banking, through our web page, by mail

(SMLC 3419 Grand Ave, San Marcos, CA 92708) or by putting your offering in the offering plate on Sunday morning)

WE ARE ABLE TO RECEIVE YOUR OFFERINGS through Pay Pal or major credit and debit cards. Donations can be made by using the "Donate" tab found on San Marcos Lutheran's web page. Download a QR reader to use this code to contribute from your phone.



"HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS," a Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services project is collecting financial donations to be sent to LIRS to provide Christmas gifts for children in the refugee detention centers. Checks should be made payable to San Marcos Lutheran Church with a note in the memo line, *LIRS Hope for the Holidays*. Donations will be accepted through December 18th. This is one more way to celebrate together what it means to be a community of faith and followers of Jesus.

ADULT FORUM- meets every Sunday at 10am in Luther Hall. Hope to see you there! Schedule of events for the next few weeks:

Sun, December 25 Christmas Day (no Adult Forum)

Sun, January 1 New Year's Day (no Adult Forum)

Upcoming Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve, 7:00 pm.- Communion & Candlelight

Christmas Day, 10:00 am- Lessons & Carols

New Years Day Sunday, 10:00am- Epiphany

ALL SAINTS FOOD PANTRY- December ideas. We can always use macaroni and cheese. We expect to be provided with ground meat, so boxes of Hamburger Helper would be nice. If you donate bread, we can put it in the freezer until our distribution days (Dec.17th and 24th). We have freezer space available, so if you'd like to donate frozen pies for Christmas, that would be quite a treat! Again, cleaning supplies are not provided by Brother Benno's or the San Diego Food Bank, so any of those items are always appreciated. We invite you to stop by All Saints Church (651 Eucalyptus Avenue in Vista) on the 3rd and 4th Saturdays of the month, especially between 10:30am-11:30am. Thank you for your ongoing support of this important ministry. If you have questions, please contact Jill Adachi or Doris Payne.