

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 10, 2024

Welcome to worship!

Throughout the service, you will be invited to sit, stand, or kneel as you are able and as you feel comfortable. Offering plates will not be passed during the service; if you are moved to give a monetary gift this morning, you may place it in the silver offering plate at the back of the center aisle, or you can hand it to an usher. Details about giving electronically are included toward the end of this bulletin.

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.

We invite you to enter into this time of worship with a period of quiet reflection.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

PRELUDE

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 writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
 Out of love for the whole world,
 God draws near to us,
 breaks every snare of sin,
 washes away our wrongs,
 and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, rich in mercy, **whose light reveals the truth of things, the judgement we bring on ourselves: we thank you that you sent your Son to save and not condemn; in his self-giving love, may life abundant reign; through Jesus Christ, who was lifted up for us. Amen.**

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

For the Beauty of the Earth



- 1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
- 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
- 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
- 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
- 5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
 Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

WORD -*The congregation may be seated.*

FIRST READING

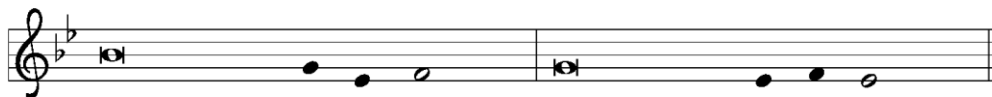
Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 107:1-3,17-22



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the ¹LORD is good,
for God's mercy en- ¹dures forever.
- ²**Let the redeemed of the ¹LORD proclaim**
that God redeemed them from the hand ¹of the foe,
- ³gathering them in ¹from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and ¹from the south.
- ¹⁷**Some were fools and took re- ¹bellious paths;**
through their sins they ¹were afflicted.
- ¹⁸They loathed all man- ¹ner of food
and drew near ¹to death's door.
- ¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried ¹to the LORD**
and you delivered them from ¹their distress.
- ²⁰You sent forth your ¹word and healed them
and rescued them ¹from the grave.
- ²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your ¹steadfast love**
and your wonderful works ¹for all people.
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices ¹of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with ¹shouts of joy.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

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 John, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assembly is invited into prayer:

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and the world in need. *(A brief silence)*

*After each petition, "Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**"*

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

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 God thanks and praise.

We thank you, desert Mother, for in the valley of dry bones you create hearts of flesh quickened by the Spirit's breath.

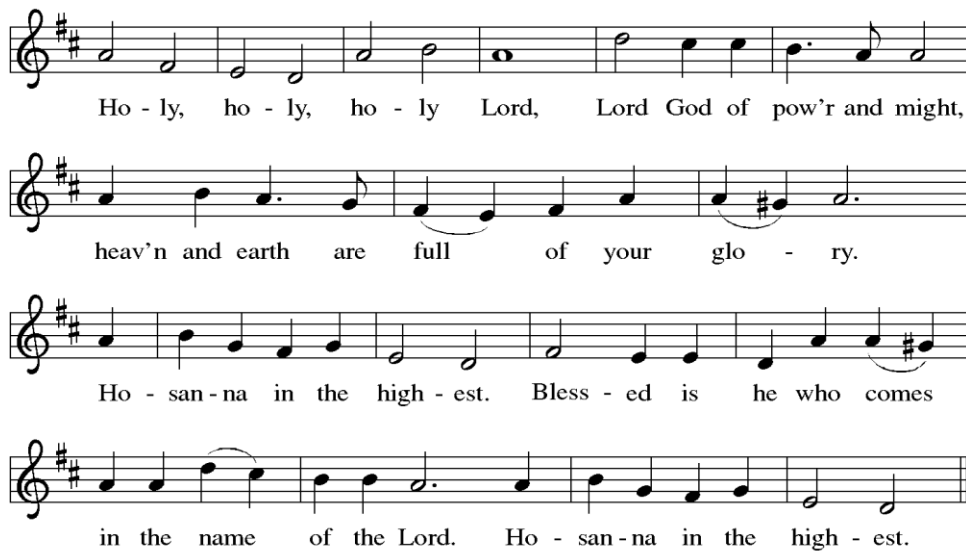
We thank you, wise Sister, that you walk in cloud and fire with your lost and faithless people.

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

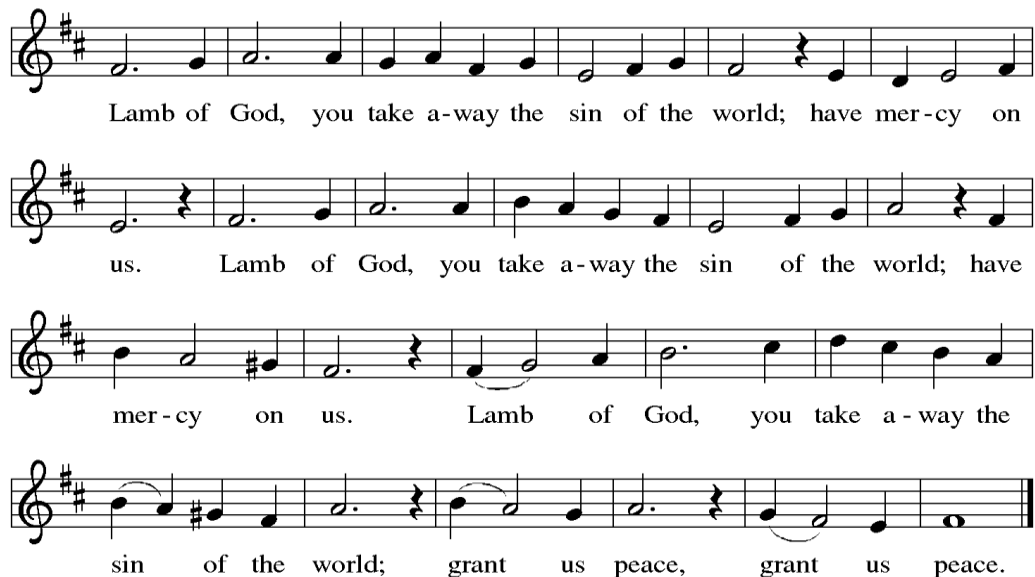
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

AGNUS DEI



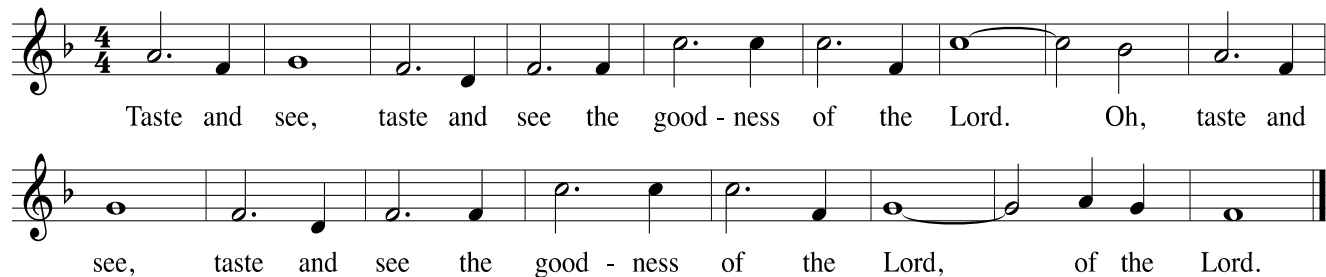
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

“Taste and See”

Refrain



Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the Lord. Oh, taste and
see, taste and see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Verses

1. I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord for God has been so good to me.
2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord who answered me; from all my troubles I was set free.
3. Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good; in God we need put all our trust.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

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

I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord. With my mouth will I make known thy faith - ful - ness, thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions." The score includes a "Fine" marking at the end of the first phrase and a "D.C. al fine" marking at the end of the second phrase.

I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will
sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mer - cies of the *Fine*
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known thy
faith - ful - ness, thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make
D.C. al fine
known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Psalm 89:1

Music: FILLMORE, J. H. Fillmore

Go in peace. Share your bread.

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

"Taste and See" Text: Psalm 34; James E. Moore, Jr., b.1951 Music: James E. Moore, Jr., b.1951 © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.
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WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher/Presider: Pr. Casey Kloehn Dunsworth

Assisting Minister: Anne Voth

Musicians: Justin Hershey, Max Chodos & Beth Sullivan

Lector: Rob O'Carroll

Ushers: Tom Andreas and Mikki Beck

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: Eleanor Adcock, Christine Buma, Susan Guenzel, Donna Huber, Mike Hudlow, Pete Johnson, Jim Kent, Linda Kent, Susan Kent, Gary Kloehn, Deborah McGregor, Alvar Roy, Larry Serafin, Roy Smith, Vern Soderstrom, Dawn Steele, Louise Testerman, Megan Toler, Nick Torres. Let us pray for our homebound members: Dottie Black, Beverly Gift, Janice Phillips, and Carol Schwartz. We also continue to pray for: Pacifica Synod Bishop David Nagler and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Our sympathy to the Shoup family, on the passing of Victoria's mother. May God comfort all who mourn with the hope of the resurrection.

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 Vanco, our online giving portal. Visit sanmarcoslutheran.org/donate 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.*

All Saints Food Pantry

Thank you for regularly bringing food to the shopping cart. We are happy to receive any shelf-stable items that you would typically buy for your own family. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jill Adachi or Doris Payne. We have been blessed with so many people asking to help, from our congregation and All Saints Episcopal, that we are now on a rotating schedule. We could use help occasionally on the third and fourth Thursdays at 10:15am and Fridays at 8am to unload the car and stock shelves – about 45 minutes each day. Our volunteer times for Distribution Days are the 3rd and 4th Saturdays of each month from 10:30am-12:30pm.

SMLC Community Time Schedule- Sundays from 11:15 am- 12pm- in Luther Hall.

March 10th- End of Life Financial Planning- Rob O'Carroll

March 17th- Funeral Planning- Pr. Casey

March 24th- Sack Lunches for Interfaith

SACK LUNCHES : The Social Action committee invites everyone to join us in assembling Sack Lunches on Sunday March 24, after the church service. We will donate these lunches to Interfaith. They continue to give out at least 300 lunches daily and they are greatly appreciated.

Any questions: contact Diana Arney or Karla Strazicich. Feel free to drop off supplies in advance, but please bring the bread and Cuties the day of the event. Supplies needed: Juice boxes, Small individually wrapped snack (eg raisins, jerky stick, cookie, etc), soft granola bars, bread, Cutie oranges.

Lutheran Fellowship Lunch Hour will meet TOMORROW Monday, March 11 at 12pm. At PEGAH's Kitchen at 955 S. Santa Fe, in Vista. We invite everyone to join us! It will be an order from the menu, have lunch and fellowship. Contact Bill Hanson @ rethp082@gmail.com for questions!

Children's Center Cares Closet (C4) is open every second Wednesday, including this Wednesday 3/13, from 11am-1pm in the SMLC Nursery Room. We have boys and girls clothes for ages 0-5, books, toys, games, costumes, dress-up clothes, pajamas, shoes, and more -- all for \$1 or \$2. If you would like to donate new or gently-used children's items to C4 or volunteer, please contact Melissa Harte at 858-386-2697.

Giving Envelopes are now available for 2024. Pick up yours today in the Narthex.

New Email Addresses

Please update your address books and do not worry about a phishing scam, there are new SMLC email addresses. If you receive emails from these addresses, it really is us. Our previous addresses are still active, but we are transitioning to using these, and you can help us make that change:

Pastor Casey - pastor@sanmarcoslutheran.org

Council President Dan Norris - council@sanmarcoslutheran.org

Preschool Director Ann Leong - preschool@sanmarcoslutheran.org

Office Manager Aimee Hudlow - office@sanmarcoslutheran.org

Easter Egg Candy and Trinket Donations needed- We are asking for donations of small candies, stickers, toys, etc. to put inside the Easter eggs. (we do not need plastic eggs). Donations can be left in the bin in the Narthex.

All are invited to join our Holy Lament Services:

Wed. March 13th- 2pm & 6pm

Wed. March 20th- 2pm

Easter Flower dedication forms are available: Donations towards Easter plants can be made in memory or honor of someone special. Fill out a dedication slip, attach your check and put in the offering plate or drop off in the office. Dedications received by March 20th will be listed in our Easter Service bulletin.

Easter Potluck- On Easter Sunday, we will have a casual Easter potluck breakfast, between services. Suggested items are pastries, muffins, fruit. Items may be dropped off in the kitchen.