



Fourth Sunday in Lent March 23, 2025

9:00 am

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
San Mateo, CA
www.standrews.org (650) 345-1625

"We welcome all people as children of God and invite them to participate fully in the life and ministry at St. Andrew's regardless of age, race, gender, education, ethnic origin, marital or family status, cultural heritage, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic reality or diversity of ability. We resolve to be a church with open hearts, open minds, open doors and seeking to be reconciled to God and one another." St. Andrew's has a statement of welcome for the LGBTQ+ community.

St. Andrew's sits on the traditional land of the Ohlone, Ramaytush and Muwekma tribes.

Prelude

Welcome

Pastor John Kuehner

Call to Worship

Unity Choir and/or Mission Bells

Invocation

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

C: and also with you.

Gathering Hymn –

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

Confession and Forgiveness

Where have we struggled? Where have we been less than perfect?

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Pause for reflection and thought.

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

We struggle. We have been less than perfect.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, spite, or indifference.

We disregard the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we often assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may seek to live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

In ✠ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as ambassadors of God's grace.

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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹The 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.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹² 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.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

Call and Response Reading: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit**

there is no guile! ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long. ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;**

my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful**

will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. ⁸ **"I will instruct you**

and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye. ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you." ¹⁰ **Great are the**

tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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- Return to the Lord

The Holy Gospel

The holy gospel according to Luke

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Glory to you, O Lord

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ 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! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.’ ²² 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. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the

father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’³² 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

You may be seated

Hymn of the Day

Beneath The Cross of Jesus

ELW 338

Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

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

A brief silence.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion especially those we now name aloud or in the peace of our hearts.

Pause . . .

Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy, **hear 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**

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: May the Peace of the God be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us share that peace with one another.

Please stand as you are able

Offering Song Create in Me a Clean Heart O God

Offering Prayer

Let us pray . . .

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

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom are both life and death,
growth and decay, the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm, dimness and light.

Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the ancient and unending
hymn:

Holy Holy Holy

Words of Institution

Communion Dialogue

O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living, you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths and
seek to live your love. **Amen**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father,	as we forgive those
 who art in heaven,	 who trespass
hallowed be thy name,	 against us;
 thy kingdom come,	and lead us not
 thy will be done,	 into temptation,
on earth as it is in heaven.	but deliver us from evil.
Give us this day	For thine is the kingdom,
 our daily bread;	 and the power,
and forgive us	 and the glory,
 our trespasses,	 forever and ever.
	Amen.

All are welcomed to come forward for communion as directed by the usher.

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. . .

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**

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross

ELW 335

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**