

# *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

## *March 30, 2025*



### *St Andrew's & Unity Lutheran Church*

San Mateo & South San Francisco, CA

[www.unityssf.org](http://www.unityssf.org)

[www.standrews.org](http://www.standrews.org)

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

Linda Underwood

**Welcome**

Pastor John Kuehner

**Call to Worship**

Unity Choir and/or Mission Bells

**Invocation**

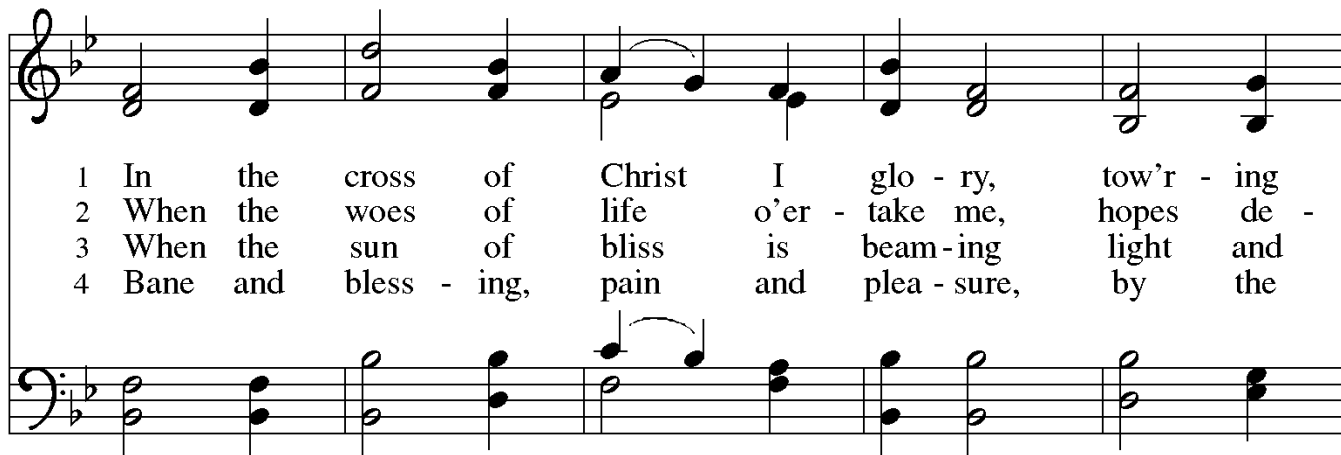
**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C:** and also with you.

# Gathering Hymn

## *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

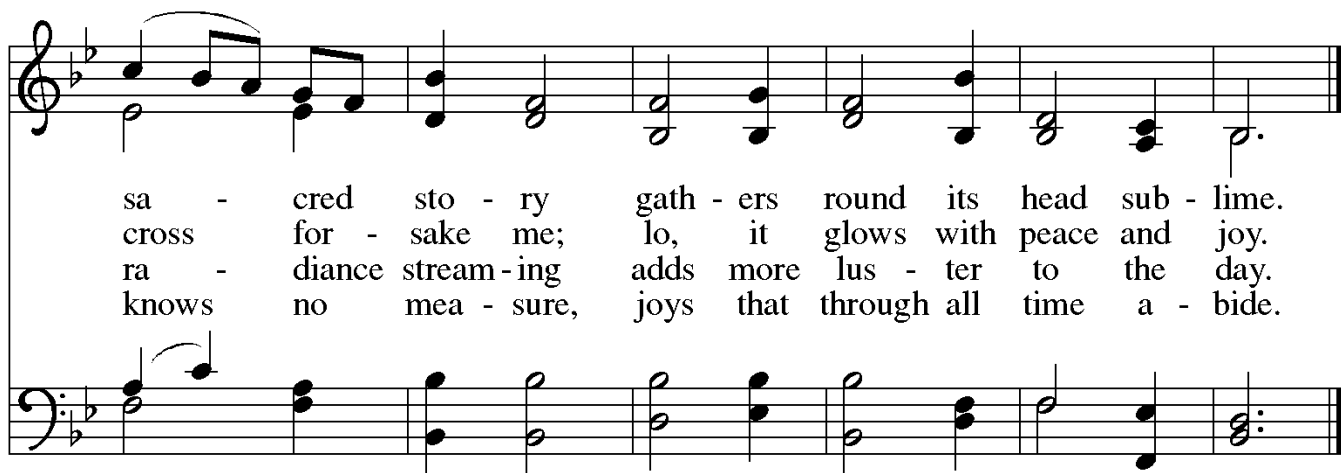
ELW 324



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

# 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**

# WORD

## 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.*

<sup>9</sup> 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.

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

## Call and Response Reading: Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away! <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!** <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long. <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.** <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.** <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. <sup>8</sup> **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.** <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will <sup>l</sup> not stay near you.”

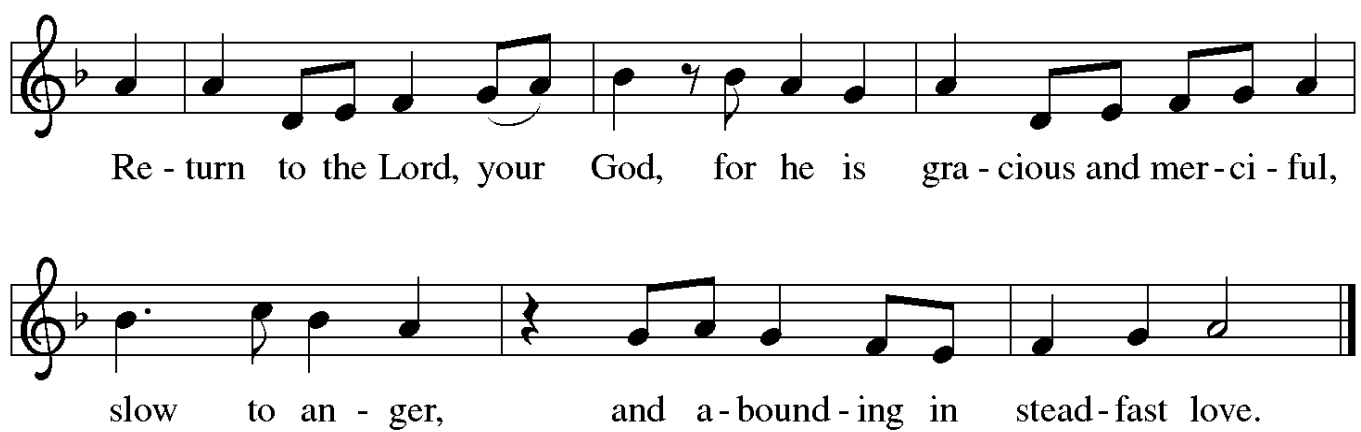
<sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

**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.*

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

**Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

# Gospel Verse

P: The Gospel according to Luke

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

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

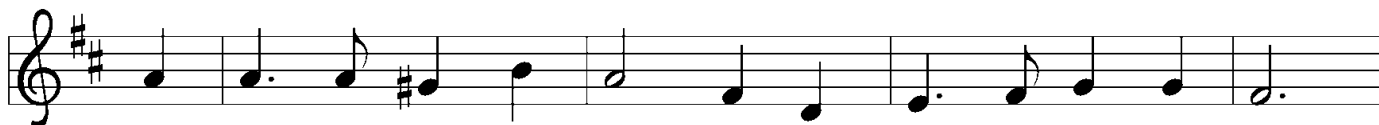
<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> 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.’”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

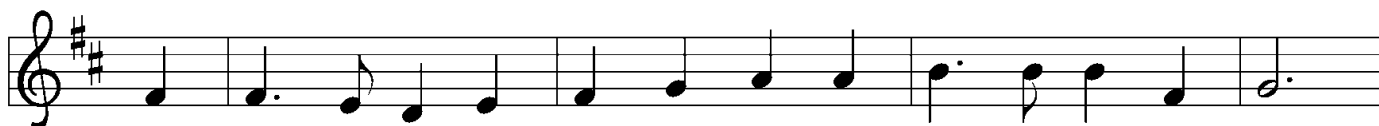
Pastor John Kuehner



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

# Apostles' 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

*Response to each petition*

A: God of grace,                      C: **hear our prayer.**

## Offering Time and Reflection

# FUNDAYS!



**Our Community Cares**

Stop by between:

**10 AM AND 1 PM!**

**WEDNESDAYS** at **Unity**  
609 Southwood Dr. | SSF

**THURSDAYS** at **St. Andrew's**  
1501 S. El Camino Dr. | San Mateo

A day **outside** of **SUNDAY** where there's activity at the church:

Coffee and tea, conversations, office projects, gardening, repairs,  
music practice, worship prep, light cleanings, brainstorming, prayers,  
connecting with visitors who pass by, check-ins with Pastor,  
and anything else you suggest!

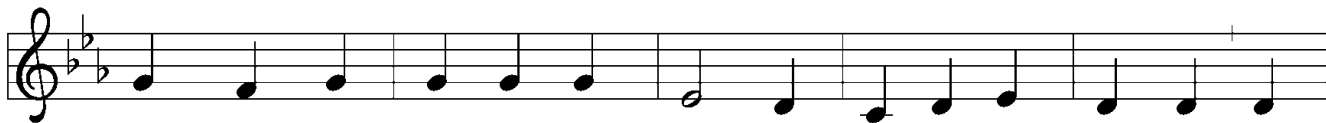




Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



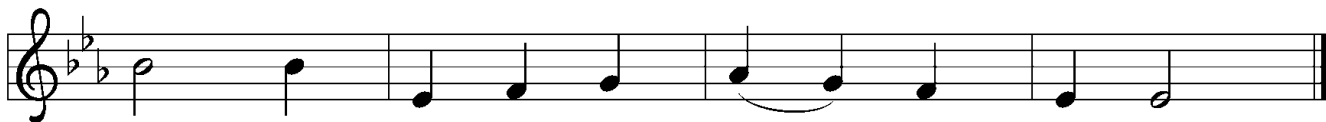
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your



pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -



store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,



and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

## MEAL

### Offertory Prayer

### Holy Communion

P: God be with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: And also with you.**

**C: We lift them to God.**

P: Let us give thanks to our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Holy, Holy

see screen



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution | *Jesus' Invitation*

### Lord's Prayer

see screen

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day  
our daily bread;  
and forgive us  
our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those  
who trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not  
into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

# SENDING

## Post Communion Prayer

### Blessing

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

C: Amen.

**Sending Hymn**      *Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross*      ELW 335

*(Turn to final page)*

### Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

Linda Underwood

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1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.