



March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent
St. Mary's in-the-Valley
stmarysramona.org

Morning Prayer Service

Welcome to St. Mary's! Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, you're welcome to participate fully in all that we do here. Restrooms are in the building across the breezeway, just inside the door on the left. Coffee is in the same building.

Welcome/Bienvenidos

Please stand as you are able.

Land Acknowledgement: St. Mary's in-the-Valley acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of San Diego North County, the Kumeyaay People, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the lives of the Original People.

Opening Hymn/Himno de Apertura

*I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God sent the stars to give light to the world
The star of my life is Jesus*

*Chorus: In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus*

I Want to Walk

*I want to see the brightness of God
I want to look at Jesus
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path
And show me the way to the Father. Chorus*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ
I want to be with Jesus
When we have run with patience the race
We shall know the joy of Jesus. Chorus*

Opening Statement

Leader:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. As we gather in this Lenten season, let us quiet our hearts before God and open ourselves to the grace and mercy offered to us in Christ.

The Collect of the Day

Leader The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Leader Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Pueden sentarse./Please be seated for the readings.

The Lessons

A reading from 1 Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Escuchamos lo que el Espiritu dice a la Gente de Dios. **Demos gracias a Dios.**

The Psalm

We will read Psalm 23 responsively by half-verse.

The Lord is my shepherd; ***I shall not be in want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures ***and leads me beside still waters.**

He revives my soul ***and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; ***for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ***you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever**

The Epistle

A reading from Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Escuchamos lo que el Espiritu dice a la Gente de Dios. **Demos gracias a Dios**

The Gospel/El Evangelio

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn

*Neighbor, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant too.*

The Servant Song

*We are pilgrims on a journey;
We are neighbors on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 9:1-41 **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

El Evangelio del Señor.
Alabado seas, Señor Cristo.

Sequence Hymn Continued . . .

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
 In the nighttime of your fear;
 I will hold my hand out to you
 Speak the peace you long to hear.*

*Won't you let me be your servant
 Let me be as Christ to you?
 Pray that I may have the grace
 To let you be my servant, too.*

(Please be seated)

The Homily

Ray Swavely

Time for silent reflection. Momento para reflexion en silencio.

Please stand as you are able

The Creed

1. We be - lieve in God al - might - y, au - thor of all -
 2. We be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fer'd, scourg'd and scourn'd and
 3. We be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the -
 4 things that be, mak - er of the earth and heav - ens,
 cru - ci - fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied
 saints with - in, one church cath - lic, one church ho - ly,
 7 keep - er of the sky and sea. We be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus,
 True life there had tru - ly died. We be - lieve that on the third day
 where for - give - ness frees from sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion,
 11 now for - us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it
 Christ was rais'd up from the grave, then as - cend - ed
 for the break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's
 14 and of Ma - ry born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that we have claim'd.

The Prayers of the People

Oremos. Let us pray. (*Time for silent prayer.*)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for Anglican Church of Kenya

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for the clergy and people of Good Shepherd, Hemet.

In the military cycle of prayer we pray for the Navy & Marine Corps Reserve Center San Diego.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean the Presiding Bishop, Susan of San Diego, the people and clergy of St. Mary's, Ramona and for all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; we pray for Bob Kezer, Cathy Dyess, Rick, Robin, Shirley, Charlene, Karen, Renee, Vince, Kate and Jen.

[The People may add their own petitions here.]

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

[The People may add their own thanksgivings here.]

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom: we pray for Ethan Guidroz.

[The People may add their own petitions]

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you. Amen

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Confesión y Perdón de los Pecados

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Leader: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Leader: The Peace of Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Feel free to greet one another with whatever sign of peace (handshake, fist bump, nod, etc.) is comfortable for you.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

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 all that is evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Announcements & Offertory Sentence

Anuncios y Oracion de Ofrecimiento

Leader: Let us walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

(Please be seated)

The Offertory

I Come With Joy to Meet my Lord

*I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free;
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.*

*the love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.*

*I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.*

*And thus with joy we meet our Lord;
his presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see and praise him here.*

*As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends;*

*Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways;
and as his people in the world,
we'll live and speak His praise.*

To support St. Mary's mission of inclusion and radical welcome, scan the code, text "Give" to 877-742-9191 or visit pushpay.com/g/stmarysramona and select "Open Plate." You can also place cash or checks to "St. Mary's" in the offering plate. All gifts sustain the mission and ministry of St. Mary's and are 100% tax deductible. *Thank you!*



When the offering is brought to the front, we stand and sing the Doxology together:
Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him, all creatures here below, praise him above, ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Community Prayers & Celebrations

For Birthdays: **Watch over your children as their days increase; bless and guide them all of the days of their lives. Guide, strengthen and comfort them, abiding with them through every joy and sorrow, keeping them in your gentle care. Amen.**

For Anniversaries: **Almighty God, Giver of all that is: bless all who are joined together in love. Lead them as they grow in devotion to one another. Help them to comfort and support each other, share joy and laughter together and give them the peace that comes from constancy in their relationship and guidance from you, our Lord. Amen.**

For Travel: **Lord, there is no place we can go where we are away from you. We ask you to give travelers their needs, keep them safe and bring them home to their loved ones when their travels are over. Amen.**

For Quilts: **Lord, this quilt is a sign of our promise to pray for the recipient, knowing that you are providing the healing and comfort they seek. The knots that we tie are but a symbol of that abiding love that you give to everyone. Amen.**

The Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

(Please stand)

Let us pray. *(brief silence for private prayers)*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in Christ's Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Sending Song

*Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Are you fully trusting in his grace this hour?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?*

*Chorus: Are you washed in the blood,
In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?
Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?*

Are You Washed in the Blood?

*Lay aside your garments that are stained with sin
And be washed in the blood of the Lamb.
There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean.
O, be washed in the blood of the Lamb! Chorus.*

*Are you walking daily by the Savior's side?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
Do you rest each moment in the crucified?
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Chorus.*

The Dismissal

Leader: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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Announcements

A Prayer for this time of Transition

*Gracious and loving God, we thank you for your faithful presence among us in every season.
As we wait and discern the vicar you are calling to lead this congregation, grant us patience of heart and clarity of spirit.
Strengthen us in this time of transition. Bless those who give generously of their time and gifts—
our volunteers, leaders, and servants— that they may be sustained with joy, wisdom, and renewed energy.
Prepare the heart of the one you are calling to serve as our vicar. Guide them with courage and trust,
and lead them, in your perfect time, to this community you love.
Keep us rooted in prayer, united in purpose, and open to the work of the Holy Spirit among us.
We place our hope in you, O God, confident that you are faithful in all things.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Easter Flowers: Grab a form from the Narthex! **Flower orders are due by Palm Sunday!**

Next ECW Meeting: March 22nd in the Haven

BC meeting TODAY after church in the portable bldg.

Retirement Celebration for the Rev. Canon Gwynn Lynch March 26

Gwynn has touched so many lives with her wisdom, steadiness, humor, and deep faith. If you've shared ministry, friendship, laughter, or meaningful moments with her over the years, this evening is for you. On March 26 from 5 - 8 p.m., we'll gather at the Episcopal Church Center in Ocean Beach (2083 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.) for a joyful celebration with food, music, and dancing. It will be a relaxed, festive evening—simply a chance to be together and to honor Gwynn as she begins this next chapter.

Please RSVP using the link in the Enews.

Holy Week schedule:

Maundy Thursday we are invited to attend FCC's service at 6:30. Anyone interested in singing their Contada for that service, practice is on Thursday nights at 6:30. Email Pastor Wes for more Information.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12 at St. Mary's led by Cathy Knowles

Good Friday Ecumenical Service at RUMC 6:30pm, St. Mary's is participating in the service as well as FCC and SoJ

Easter Sunday Service 9:30 am with Pastor Cyndi Jones

****Please see Enews for more announcements.****