



SOTC Worship  
February 17, 2021  
Ash Wednesday

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GATHERING

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Refrain is played once by the piano, then sung once by our music leaders.  
The congregation joins the third time through the refrain.  
The refrain is repeated after each spoken response as printed below.*

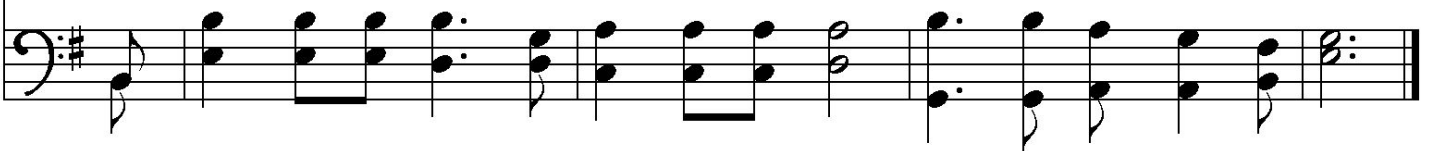
*O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*



L: In the softness of evening,  
in the solace of silence we come to you, O Lord.

**C: We come for acceptance; we come for community; we come for forgiveness and love.**

*Repeat "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"*

L: In the serenity of day's end,  
in the restfulness of worship, we come to you O Lord.

**C: We come to you for respite; we come to you for completion; we come to you for forgiveness and love.**

*Repeat "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"*

L: In the quiet of the night,  
in the comfort of darkness we come to you, O Lord.

**C: We come for peace; we come for comfort; we come for forgiveness and love.**

*Silence*

L: We come, O Lord of Light,  
**C: seeking the illumination of your Word.**

L: We come

**C: for the path we can't find;**

L: we come

**C: for the life we don't have.**

L: We come to you

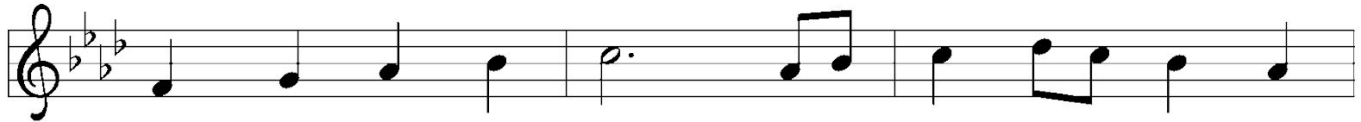
**C: for our lives are death and you alone have breath and being.**

GATHERING HYMN

*O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS*



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

CLAUDIA F. HERNAMAN, GILBERT E.. DOAN JR.

#### GREETING

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

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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### WORD

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#### PSALM: PSALM 51:1-17

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

**<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**<sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence**

**and blameless when you pass judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup>You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

**<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

**<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

**<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

<sup>13</sup>Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

**<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare your praise.

<sup>16</sup>For you have no delight in sacrifice;  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

**<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

GOSPEL: MARK 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel according Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you O Christ**

#### REFLECTION AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Congregation is invited to have their ashes (distributed in their Lent bag) prepared in a small bowl. If desired, you may mix your ashes with a small amount of olive oil. Imposition of ashes will take place during our time of reflection. Follow the directions of Pastor Aleese.*

*Congregation is also invited to have their Ash Wednesday Doodle page and pen/pencil ready for our time of reflection. Didn't get a Doodle page? Access your own page at <https://shepherdofthecross.org/lent-holy-week>*

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### MEAL

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#### 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 our thanks and praise.**

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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 forever. Amen.**

#### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Congregation is invited to share communion elements with those in their family, saying “The body of Christ, given for you,” and “the blood of Christ, shed for you.” If you are worshipping on your own, hear*

*the words proclaimed by Pastor Aleese as God's Word of promise is spoken to you. All are welcome to share in God's feast that makes us one.*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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### SENDING

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#### BLESSING

May God, who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
and claimed us as children of the light,  
strengthen you on your journey.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you  $\text{✠}$  peace.  
**Amen.**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you!**

Liturgy and words for worship adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).  
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