



SOTC Worship  
March 21, 2021  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

---

## GATHERING

---

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Time for silent reflection and confession.*

Gracious God,

**we want to see you. We want to be known as the people who looked for Jesus; but not only that, we want to be people who have your covenant written on our hearts. Why do we feel so far away from that at times? What went wrong? Where did we lose our way? Once again, write your love on your fragile hearts, and return us to you. Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, despite our wonderings, despite our distractions, despite wrong turns time and time again, you are known and loved by God. Your fragile bones are held by our gracious God. Your fragile hearts are loved by our gracious God. And your tender spirit is forgiven by our gracious God. Again and again, you are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Again and again, you are reformed. So go, shaped by God's ever-abiding grace. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

PSALM: PSALM 51:1-12

<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.**

## SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,  
“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;  
<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,  
“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL: JOHN 12:20-33

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ**

## SERMON

*Assembly Sings Refrain Only*      **Refrain**

I will be their God, and they will be my peo-ple.

I will for-give them and re - mem-ber their sin - no more. *Verses...*

*Sing Last X Only*

I will for-give them and re - mem - ber their sin - no more.

*Leader sings the verses.....*

**Verse 1:**

Oh the days are surely coming says the Lord our God,  
When I will establish a new covenant with them,  
With the houses of Israel and Judah. **Refrain**

**Verse 2:**

Not like the covenant made with their ancestors,  
When the Lord brought them up from the land of Egypt,  
A covenant which they broke. **Refrain**

**Verse 3:**

This new covenant the Lord will make with them  
Will be set within their hearts and the least and the greatest  
Will know that the Lord is their God! **Refrain**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer." If you would like to add a prayer petition, email it to Pastor Aleese at [pastor@shepherdofthecross.org](mailto:pastor@shepherdofthecross.org)*

————— **MEAL** —————

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 ever. 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 given to us in love.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## SENDING

### BLESSING

As you leave this space,  
may your mouth speak of God's goodness;  
may your arms hold those in need;  
may your feet walk toward justice;  
may your heart trust its worth;  
may your soul dance in God's grace;  
and may this be your rhythm –  
again and again and again...  
until God's promised day.  
In the name of + Jesus Christ: the Beloved, and Love itself:  
go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.  
**Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SHARING OF THE PEACE

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