



SOTC Worship  
March 7, 2021  
Third Sunday of Lent

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## GATHERING

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Time for silent reflection and confession.*

God of Justice, **we are guilty of building tables. We have built tables that oppression dines on, sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.**

God of Justice, **we are guilty of forgetting where we are, of turning faith into a negotiation tool and the church into a place for insiders.**

God of Justice, **we are guilty of ignoring the point; for you taught that the temple was for worship and your message was for all.**

God of our hearts, **be in our decision making. Draw near to our choices. Forgive our mistakes. And as you do, flip every table, habit, belief, or point of view that needs adjusting. With hope, we pray for a better day. Amen.**

Family of faith, hear the good news!

God took on flesh and walked this earth to show you the way.

God took on flesh so that you could see what it looks like to disrupt and overturn systems of corruption.

God took on flesh to point you to restoration.

And most of all, God took on flesh, so that through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ +, you are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you on your journey, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**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.**

————— WORD —————

FIRST READING: EXODUS 20:1-17

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

PSALM: PSALM 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup>**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,  
<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;**

**and nothing is hid from its heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;

**the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple;**

<sup>8</sup>the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;

**the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;**

<sup>9</sup>the fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;

**the ordinances of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.**

<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;

**sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**But who can detect their errors?**

**Clear me from hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

## SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL: JOHN 2:13-22

The Holy Gospel according to John.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of our Lord.

### Praise to you O Christ

## SERMON

## HYMN

### BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869  
Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

Capo 2: C D F#m<sup>7</sup>(b5) G#m<sup>7</sup>(b5) C D G A C D

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;

C/B Am Dm F#m E  
D/C# Bm Bm/D Em Em/G G#m F#m

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;

*C*  
D
*C<sup>7</sup>/E*  
D<sup>7</sup>/F<sup>#</sup>
*F*  
G
*A<sup>7</sup>*  
B<sup>7</sup>
*Dm*  
Em

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,

*G<sup>7</sup>*  
A<sup>7</sup>
*C*  
D
*C<sup>7</sup>*  
D<sup>7</sup>
*C/G*  
D/A
*G<sup>7</sup>*  
A<sup>7</sup>
*C*  
D

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.

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!**