



SOTC Worship
February 26 2023
First Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

IF YOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU

ELW 769

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

After Pastor Aleese calls the congregation to confession, the congregation prays together:

Let us pray:

Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a radio station - something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, too often we gravitate toward the voices that think like us - easily ignoring the voices being silenced, and easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and turn us once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray, Amen.

Dear friends in Christ, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritize other voices, and even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, God does not stop seeking us. By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ +, your sins are forgiven, this day and every day, and your brokenness is bound together in Christ's cross. Hear God's call: come home, lay down your weight of sin, and be freed to live in God's love.

Thanks be to God! 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.

KYRIE

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OPENING PRAYER

Everlasting God, by your tender mercy, you sent your Son to take upon himself our flesh and suffer death on a cross for our salvation. Give us a true longing to be free from sin, and turn us in repentance to your grace. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for illumination from God's word. Take a moment for silent reflection.

FIRST READING: GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

PSALM: PSALM 32

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

The voi - ces from the past That ech - o through our
 So ci - e - ty de - mands We al - ways strive for
 A rush - ing flood of hate In news we of - ten

minds Like noi - sy ghosts haunt and har - ass With words un -
 more Ac - cum - u - lat - ing wealth and land And leave the
 see Con - ceals God's king - dom in a great Ca - co - pho -

- kind Who will we lis - ten to? Lies that bind and a - base? Or
 poor Who will we lis - ten to? The temp ter's jea - lou - sy? Or
 - ny Who will we lis - ten to? The cha - os all a - round? Or

God who coun - ters words un - true With words of grace?
 God's pro - vis - ion and pur - suit Of e - qui - ty?
 God's dream of a world made new Where love a - bounds?

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer."

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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PREFACE

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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God our creator...Remembering these mighty acts of our Lord, we proclaim together the mystery of faith: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit...now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Following the directions of the ushers, the congregation will be invited forward in groups. Each group will stand before the altar to receive the bread and wine/juice. After receiving both bread and wine, remain with your group until Pastor Aleese offers a short blessing, dismissing each group to return to their seats. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

ELW 768

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!

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