



SOTC Worship  
March 5 2023  
Second Sunday in Lent

————— GATHERING —————

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

(sung twice)

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Spir - it of the  
liv - ing God, fall fresh on me. Melt me, mold me,  
fill me, use me. Spir - it of the  
liv - ing God, fall fresh on me.

CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us pray:

**God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and yet we bury our heads in the sand. You promise all the stars in the sky, and yet we doubt it can be true. You speak of new life in the Spirit, and yet we tell ourselves we've missed our chance. Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you. Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, hear and believe this good news: God's grace that is larger than we can ever imagine. And because of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ +, you are forgiven. Today, and everyday that we come to our Lord in confession, our slate is wiped clean and you are made new. So 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.**

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## WORD

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## 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 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

PSALM: PSALM 121

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills —  
from where will my help come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup>**He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

<sup>5</sup>The LORD is your keeper;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup>**The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.**

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of our Lord.

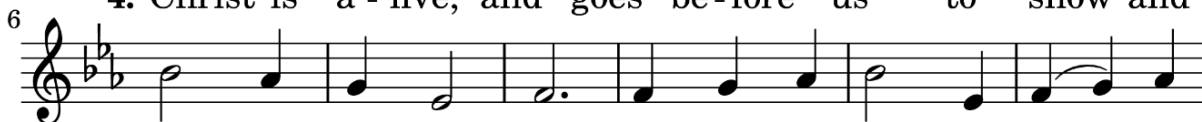
**Praise to you O Christ**

SERMON

*Song leader sings the first verse; congregation joins in following verses*



1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
2. For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and



mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is  
Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of  
past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and  
share what love can do. This is a day of new be -



bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
difference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
gin - nings; our God is mak - ing all things new.

#### 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

*In the midst of the prayer, the response to “as we proclaim the mystery of faith” is*  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

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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COMMUNION SONG

AMAZING LOVE

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

————— **SENDING** —————

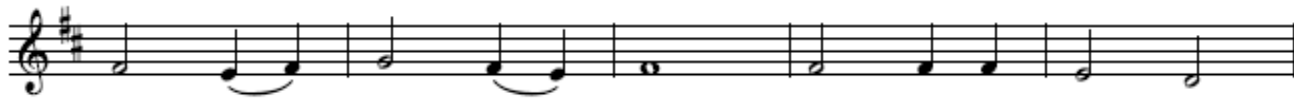
BLESSING



1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross  
 2. See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
 3. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,



on which the Prince of Glo - ry died, my rich - est  
 sor - row and love flow min - gled down; Did e'er such  
 that were an of - fring far too small. Love so a -



gain I count but loss, and pour con - tempt on  
 love and sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so  
 -maz - ing, so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my



all my pride. crown? O the won - der - ful cross, O the  
 rich a all  
 life, my



won - der - ful cross bids me come and die and find



that I may tru - ly live. O the won - der - ful cross,



O the won - der - ful cross; All who gath - er here by grace



draw near and bless Your name.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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