



SOTC Worship
March 26 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

ELW 666
(vs. 1,2,4)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

After a call to confession, Pastor Aleese invites the congregation into a time of silent reflection and then corporate prayer:

Let us pray:

Gracious Father, you sent your Son to die and rise again so that death might be conquered, and so that we might live a new life in Christ. Yet, too often we have chosen to remain captive to sin, to doubt, to fear, and to brokenness, leading us to death. By our thoughts, words, and actions, we have scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and marred your image within us. Father, we need a resurrection. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may rise up to live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ, even as we await the joy of Easter, we claim with *hope* that through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, + we are forgiven and set free. May God breathe the Holy Spirit upon you, filling you with life as the old things die and you are made new.

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

ELW pg. 147

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.

READING: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord."

PSALM: PSALM 130

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

²**LORD, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!**

³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
LORD, who could stand?

⁴**But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.**

⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

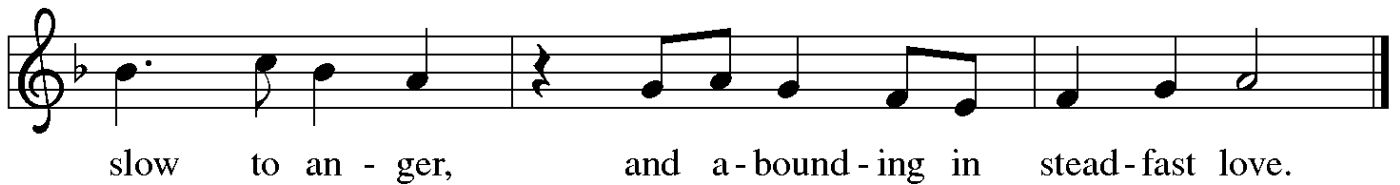
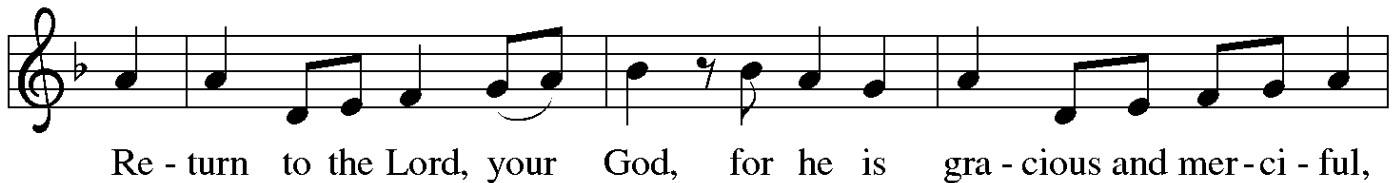
⁶**my soul waits for the LORD
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

⁸**It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.**

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-45

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But

some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

HYMN

SEND YOUR SPIRIT TO SET US FREE

Song leader sings first, then the congregation sings twice.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Send Your Spirit to Set Us Free". It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time, with a tempo marking of quarter note = 90. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Send your Spir - it to set us free. Send your Spir - it to set us free. Fill our hearts and minds; loose the chains that bind. Send your Spir - it to set us free." The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second and third staves continue the melody and lyrics.

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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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

JESUS IS A ROCK IN A WEARY LAND

ELW 333

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

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