



SOTC Worship
March 5, 2025
Ash Wednesday

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

As we return to you in this hour of worship, O God,
cultivate in me a pure and contrite heart,
and help me let go of distractions that keep me from you.

As we come before you in confession, O God,
cultivate in me repentance for my sin
and help me let go of anger, guilt, and shame.

As we embark on this journey through the season of Lent, O God,
cultivate in me a desire to seek your truth,
and help me let go of my pride and self-sufficiency.

Move in us, O God, in this hour, in this season.
Nurture me, according to your grace,
and release me from the chains that hold me captive.

GATHERING HYMN

LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME

ELW 599

GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WORD

STORYTELLING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for God's Word to be illuminated in our midst. Take a moment for silent reflection.

READINGS: JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17, PSALM 51:1-17, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20b-6:10

In response to the readings:

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is grac - ious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

The Gospel is announced:

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

RESTORE IN US, O GOD

ELW 328

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another:

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor Aleese offers a prayer as we prepare to receive ashes. After prayer, the congregation is invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. Following the imposition of ashes, the congregation joins in the following response:

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

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.

————— MEAL —————

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

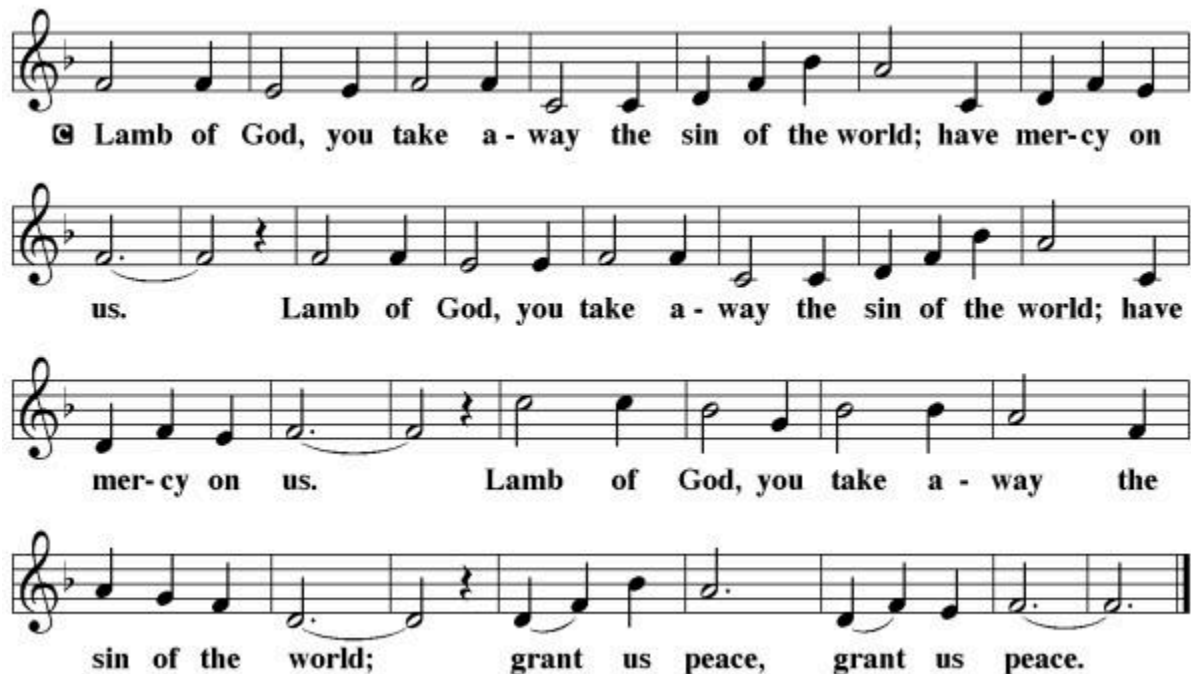
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the 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.

Receive the bread with open hands, and receive either the wine (red liquid) or juice (clear liquid). If you do not desire to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the server.

LAMB OF GOD



♩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

————— SENDING —————

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

ELW 319

DISMISSAL

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

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