



SOTC Worship  
February 18, 2026  
Ash Wednesday

---

## GATHERING

---

PRELUDE

WELCOME INTO THE WILDERNESS

GATHERING HYMN

BLESS NOW, O GOD, THE JOURNEY

ELW 326

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: DEUTERONOMY 8:1-18, PSALM 51:1-17, HEBREWS 3:12-4:2,11

*In response to the readings:*  
Word of God. Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 151

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

AS YOUR SPIRIT IN THE DESERT

vs. 1-2, 4-5

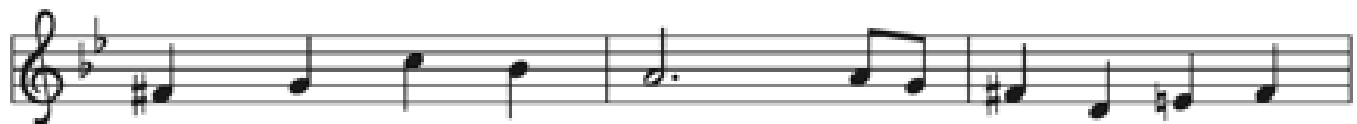
*Song leader sings vs. 1 congregation sings the rest*



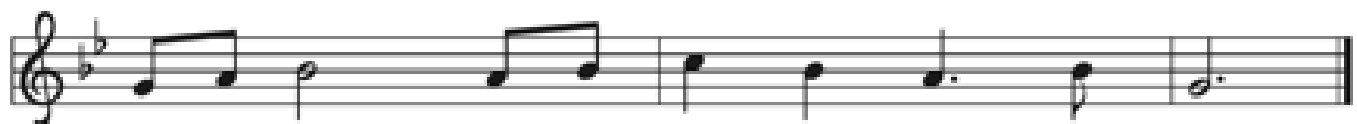
1 As your Spir - it in the des - ert led the Christ to  
2 As your fire and cloud - y pil - lar Is - rael's tribes to  
3 Though wild beasts may lurk in shad - ow, and dire thirst may  
4 Through the nar - row gate now draw us, past all em - pire's  
5 God of des - ert, God of prom - ise, you have bid us



dust and stone, so in - still our hearts with cour - age now to  
Ca - naan led, may your pres - ence be our com - fort, may your  
sear and sting, you have prom - ised liv - ing wa - ters wait - ing  
pull and strife, where be - yond our fear and cling - ing stands the  
jour - ney on through the days of dust and dark - ness to the



cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross in - to the  
man - na be our bread. Let us cross in - to the  
for us at the spring. Let us cross out of the  
thresh - old of new life. Let us cross out of the  
ris - ing of the dawn. Let us cross out of the



wil - der - ness so to walk where Christ has gone.  
wil - der - ness with God's man - na as our bread.  
wil - der - ness to the wa - ters of the spring.  
wil - der - ness to the thresh - old of new life.  
wil - der - ness to the ris - ing of the dawn.

## 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 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

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW pg. 153

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

ELW pg. 154

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

———— SENDING ————

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

ELW 319  
(vs. 1, 3, 4)

DISMISSAL

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

Copyright acknowledgements:

Music covered under CCLI License #1141706, One License #738128-A. Scripture from New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. ELW Setting 4, © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Gathering Hymn: Bless Now, O God, the Journey. Text and Music: Sylvia G. Dunstan. Text: © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. Covered under One License subscription.

Hymn of the Day: As Your Spirit in the Desert. Text and Music: Susan Palo Cherwien, Michael Costello. Text and Music: © 2012. 2015 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Covered under One License subscription.

Imposition of Ashes: Dust We Are And Shall Return. Text and Music: John Arndt, Kate Gungor, Michael Gungor. Text and Music: © Replied Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Remaining portion is unaffiliated. Covered under CCLI subscription.

Offering: As the Deer. Text and Music: Martin Nystrom. Text and Music: © 1984 Jubilate Music Group. 1987 Maranatha! Music. Covered under One License subscription.

Communion Songs: Only Grace. Text and Music: Lenora Rand, Hannah Rand. Text and Music © 2016 Plural Guild LLC. Covered under One License subscription.

Sending Song: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days. Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para, Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930. Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1815; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Covered under One License subscription.