



SOTC WORSHIP  
FEBRUARY 22, 2026  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

God hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.

**God created in the wilderness.**

The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.

**The Israelites found God in the wilderness.**

Jesus said “no” to the tempter time and time again.

**Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.**

We grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.

**For God is with us—before, through, and after the wilderness.**

Let us worship God!

**Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

### THE GLORY OF THESE FORTY DAYS

ELW 320

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of Creation,

**the psalms remind us that even before a word is on our tongue, you know it completely. You know the prayers we bring before you today—confessions of greed and doubt, fear and anxiety, conflict and regret. Free us from these sins. Give us the strength to say “no” to that which separates us from you, and “yes” to the things that let love grow. Guide us out of our self-created wilderness spaces and into your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

Friends in Christ, God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

# WORD

## STORYTELLING

## 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.*

## READINGS AND PSALM: GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7; PSALM 32; ROMANS 5:12-19

*In response to the readings:*

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 151

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:1-11

*The Gospel is announced:*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:*

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

## SERMON

HYMN

I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

ELW 325

APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW pg. 105

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

ELW pg. 152

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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. 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

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### SENDING

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## 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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