



SOTC WORSHIP
MARCH 15, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

God is in the water that restores our soul.

And God is in the night when we lose our way.

God is in today and tomorrow, raising up leaders, prophets and dreamers.

And God is in the wilderness with us—every step of the way.

So with confidence we declare—

If God is in those spaces, then God is surely here.

Let us worship the God of creation.

Let us worship the God of wilderness spaces.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

TREE OF LIFE AND AWESOME MYSTERY

ELW 334

(vs. 1, 2, LENT 4)

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.

Lord Jesus Christ,

there are stories of you healing the blind all over scripture. You were constantly opening people's eyes. So today we confess that we often choose to keep our eyes closed. We turn away from injustice in our world, worried you might ask us to work for change. We close our eyes to our privilege, because the truth is uncomfortable. We avoid eye contact with those who are suffering to avoid identifying with their pain. And we ignore the urgings of your Spirit, drawing us toward your healing. Forgive us for being blind to your presence, your Word, and your leading. Guide us from the depths of our wilderness into your light. 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: PSALM 23; EPHESIANS 5:8-14

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 151

GOSPEL: JOHN 9:1-41

The Gospel is announced:
The Holy Gospel according to John the 9th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:
The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

OPEN MY EYES



1. O pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see Your face. O - pen my eyes, Lord.
 (2. O pen my) ears, Lord. Help me to hear Your voice. O - pen my ears, Lord.
 (3. O pen my) heart, Lord. Help me to love like You. O - pen my heart, Lord.



Help me to see. 2. O pen my hear.
 Help me to love. _____

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

SENDING

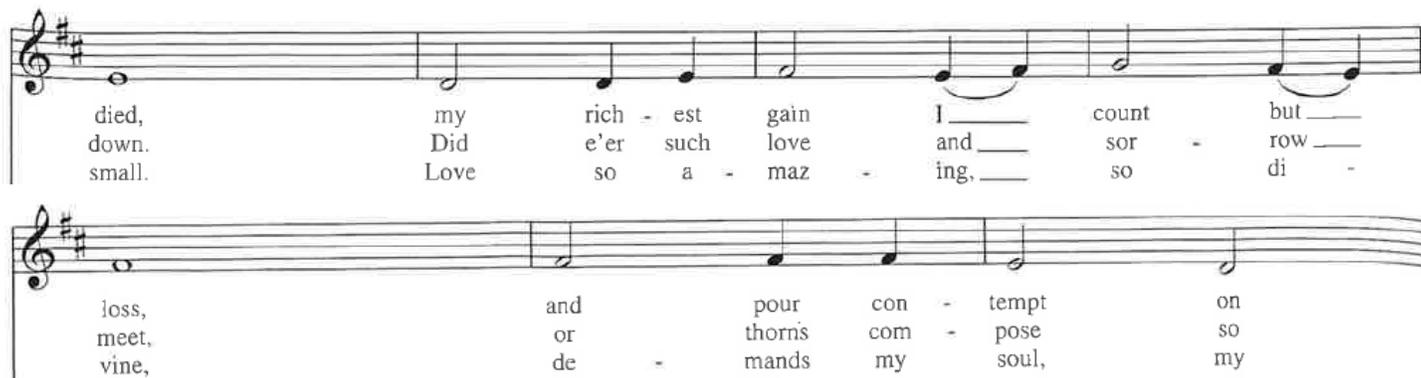
BLESSING

SENDING SONG

THE WONDERFUL CROSS

When I sur - vey the _____ won - drous _____
See from His head, His _____ hands, His _____
Were the whole realm of _____ na - ture _____

cross on which the Prince of _____ Glo - ry _____
feet, sor - row and love flow _____ min - gled _____
mine, that were an of - f'ring _____ far too _____



died, my rich - est gain I count but
 down. Did e'er such love and sor - row
 small. Love so a - maz - ing, so di -

loss, and pour con - tempt on
 meet, or thorn's com - pose so
 vine, de - mands my soul, my



all my pride. } O the
 rich a crown? }
 life, my all. } I

won - der - ful cross, O the 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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