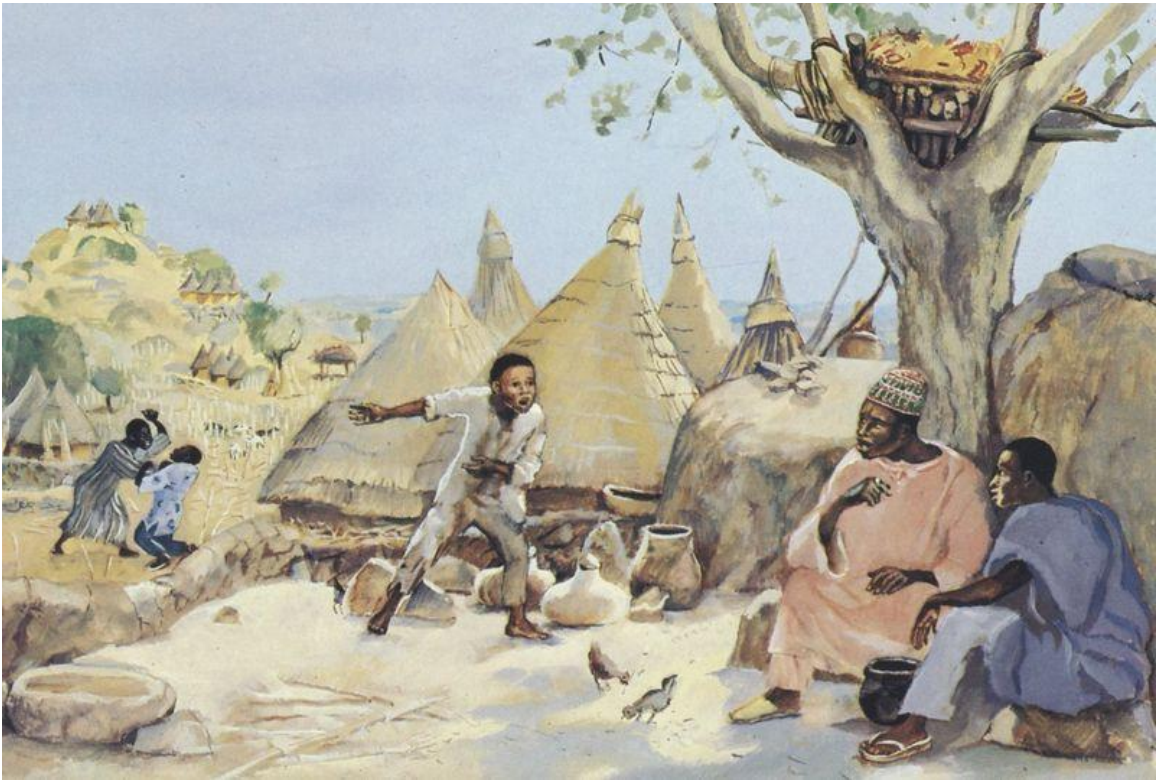
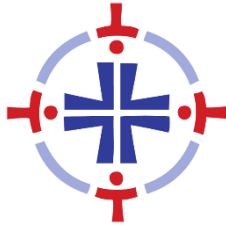




St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 13, 2026



Welcome to St. Simon's

Celebrating God's love for all. Embodying Christ in the world.

If you are here today, you belong, no matter where you are on your journey of faith. Welcome.

St Simon's is a joyful and hopeful congregation that invites all who seek God into community, questions and doubts included. Please feel free to participate as fully in the worship of God as you wish. Lift your voice in praise, respond to the prayers and readings, and come to the altar for communion or a blessing. Or, if you prefer, sit back quietly and allow God's Spirit to speak to you in the way that feels most comfortable.

Welcome, Children. You are invited as full participants in our worship just as you are. God delights in you.

Welcome, Elders. Your wisdom and experience are valued in our community. God has shaped you and you are beautiful.

Welcome, you.

Welcome, everyone, to God's table. This is the table of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, and all who seek God are invited to share in communion. If you wish to participate, but prefer not to receive communion, please join everyone coming forward. Cross your arms over your chest and we will be glad to give you a blessing instead. If you wish to have communion brought to you at your seat, or if you desire a gluten-free wafer, please notify an usher.

Wherever you find yourself on the journey, there is a place for you here.
May you encounter God in this community.

The Holy Eucharist

We will remain seated throughout the service

*All portions of the service in **Bold** are spoken by the assembly.*

Prelude

Words of Welcome

We are here because Jesus has called us -
strangers and friends,
locals and visitors,
believers and doubters,
the certain and the curious.

It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers
and invites to his table where, in bread and wine,
he meets us
and through him we, who are different,
Are joined to each other.

So come,
not because you understand,
but because you are understood.

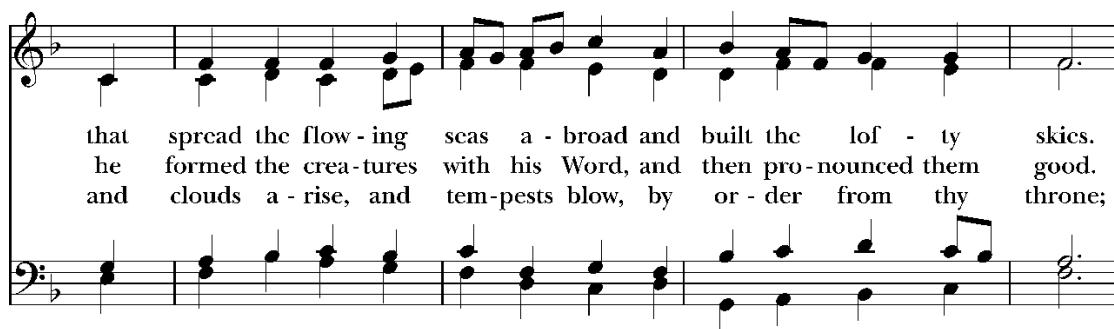
Come,
not because of how you feel,
but because God has food for you.

Come,
Not because you deserve a place,
but because Jesus invites you,
just as you are.

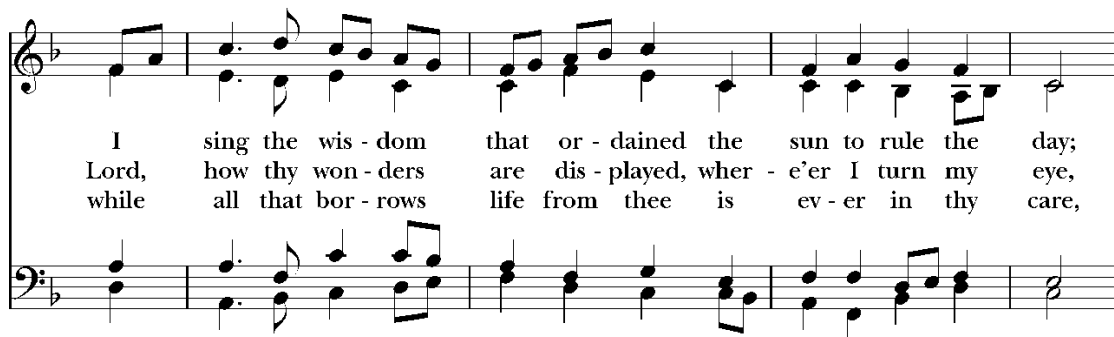
Opening Hymn 398 "I sing the almighty power of God" *Forest Green*



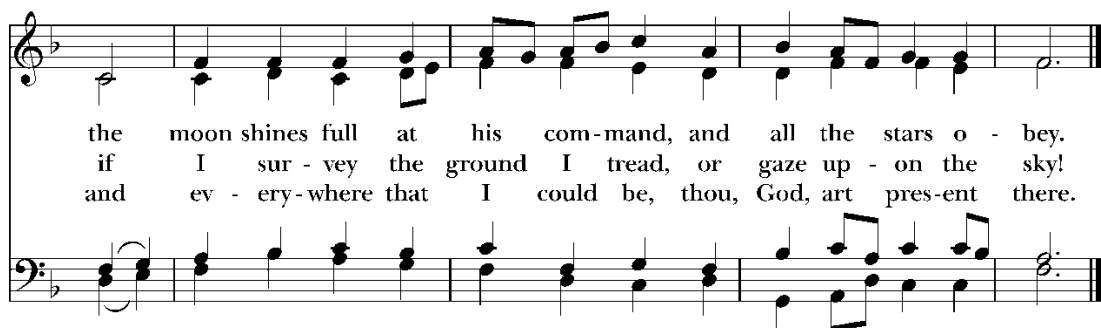
1 I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
 3 There's not a plant or flower be - low, but makes thy glo - ries known;



that spread the flow - ing seas a - broad and built the lof - ty skies.
 he formed the crea-tures with his Word, and then pro-nounced them good.
 and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;



I sing the wis - dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how thy won - ders are dis - played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
 while all that bor - rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care,



the moon shines full at his com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 and ev - ery-where that I could be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

Blessed be God: the Author, the Only-Begotten, and the Gift.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So

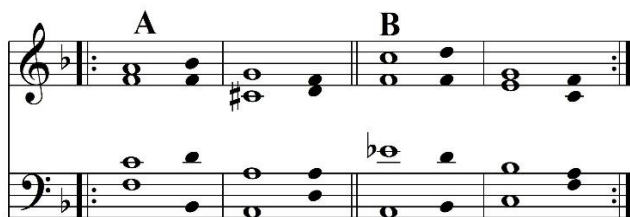
have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalter

Psalm 103:8-13



- A The Lord is tender and caring,
slow to anger, rich in love.
- B God will not accuse us long,
nor bring our sins to trial,
- A Nor exact from us in kind
what our sins de-serve.
- B As high as heaven above earth,
so great is God's love for be-lievers.
- A As far as east from west,
so God removes our sins.
- B As tender as father to child,
so gentle is God to be-lievers.

The Assembly remains seated.

The Gospel Procession

All join in singing once through both before and after the gospel.

Organ Introduction: 



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. A - men.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had

happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children process out to Story Time

The Sermon

The Congregation

A period of silence is shared after the sermon.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Recognizing God is always present and active in the events of our world and our lives, let us welcome all we experience, consenting to God's action in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.

We open ourselves to the present moment and embrace what is
(Silence)

We welcome fear and anxiety, inviting God's presence in them
(Silence)

We welcome joy and delight, recognizing God's face there
(Silence)

We welcome brokenness and vulnerability, resting in God's tenderness toward us and those we love. We especially hold Mary Edith, Jan, Sunita, Maria, Sandy, Judy, Martin, Makayla, Teri-Ellen, James, Marc, Trish, Pat and all patients, family members and staff at Northwest Community Hospital in your light
(Silence)

We welcome the memory of all those we love but see no more, especially Sally Montgomery
(Silence)

We hold our enemies in compassion
(Silence)

We release our need to control and our fear of the unknown
(Silence)

We surrender our judgments and expectations
(Silence)

We let go of our desire for esteem and approval
(Silence)

We consent to your action in us and in the world around us, offering ourselves to you and to each other. Through Christ our brother, with the aid of the Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen**

The Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Ministers and Assembly stand to greet one another in the peace of Christ.

Blessing Birthdays and Anniversaries

All those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries of any kind are invited to add their name to the chat on Zoom or feed on Facebook

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Engagement Opportunities

Offertory *Text 73256 to give. In the body of the text type saintsmons*

Offertory Anthem “How Can I Keep From Singing?”

*My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
Above the tumult and the strife, I hear its music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?*

*When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death knell ringing,
When friends rejoice, both far and near, how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell and dungeon vile, our thoughts to them are winging.
When friends by shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?*

*What though the tempest 'round me roars, I know the truth, it liveth.
What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

*Text: Traditional Quaker hymn, Music: arr. Mark Schweizer
Sung by St. Simon's Chancel Choir*

Presentation of the Gifts



Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures



here be - low; Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Cre -



a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost! A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you thanks, Holy One, for you made us, and before us, you made the world we inhabit, and before the world, you made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain, have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving, point to you as their fulfillment. And grateful as we are for the world we know, we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering; his fearless dying, and his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him.

Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness. Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven,

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth -
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it and said, “This is my body, broken for you.”

Later he took a cup of wine and said, “This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.”

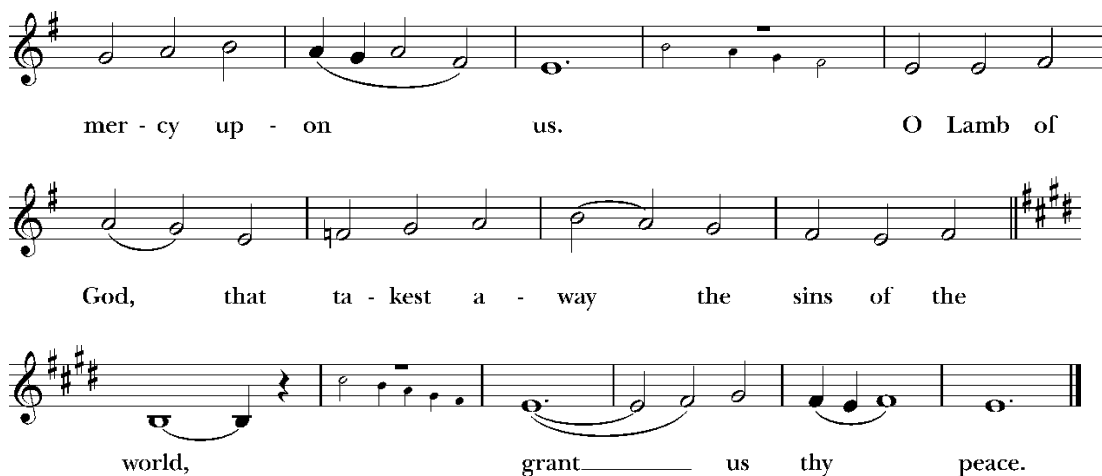
Merciful God, send now in kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. Let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

AMEN.

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,
| for ever and ever. | Amen.

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

16



Behold what you are.

May we become what we receive.

The Presider and those worshipping online consume the host together with these words:

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Everyone has a place at God's table and all are invited to share in communion.

This week we will offer communion to each other, serving each other a wafer from the bowl of wafers at each table, and selecting one to offer to the person next to you saying: "The Body of Christ" and they respond, "Amen." (meaning Yes, I believe that) If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, take the wafer that is in cellophane.

Wine is offered in individual cups around the outside of the tray. Grape juice is offered in the middle. One person holds the tray and offers it to the person next to them saying: "The Blood of Christ." and "Amen" is the response. Having consumed the juice/wine, take the tray and turn to the person on the other side of you and offer them the cups.

Communion Hymn

“Eat this bread, drink this cup”

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev - er be hun - gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

*Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

When members of the community are unable to attend the service, representatives of the people are sent with bread and wine to extend our communion with them.

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

***The Blessing**

May the wind of the Spirit startle your senses
and blow through your life;
may the fire of the Spirit scorch your complacency
and light your way.
And may the blessing of the Holy One—
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer—
rest with you now and forever more. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn 420** “When in our music God is glorified” *Engelberg*



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, _____
5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! _____



1 and a - dor - a - tion leaves no room for pride, _____
5 Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise! _____



1 it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried _____
5 And may God give us faith to sing al - ways _____



— Al - le - lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

***Dismissal**

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

This Week at St. Simon's

Tuesday, September 15 6:30p.m.—Finance Team 7:00p.m. – Women’s Book Group Wednesday, September 16 6:00p.m. – Walk In Wednesday 7:00p.m. – Choir Rehearsal	Thursday, September 17 7:30p.m. – Men’s Book Group Saturday, September 19 9:00a.m. -- Centering Prayer Meeting Sunday, September 20 9:30a.m. — Hyflex Eucharist 10:35 a.m. – Coffee & Conversation
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This Week: Women's Book Group

We have an exciting list of books lined up for 2026-27, starting off with *The Stationery Shop* by Marjan Kamali which is about "A dreamy, idealistic teenager living amid the political upheaval of 1953 Tehran, who finds a literary oasis in kindly Mr. Fakhri's neighborhood stationery shop." The discussion will be on Tuesday Sept 15th from 7-8:15 pm in person at the church or on zoom. Please reach out to rachel.jarosik@gmail.com if you are interested in receiving more information.

This Week: Men's Book Group

This month we're reviewing Andrew Ross Sorkin's work, *1929: Inside the Greatest Crash in Wall Street History – and How It Shattered a Nation*. Ben Witt will host the MBG Meeting on Thursday, September 17th beginning at 7:30 pm at his home. Bob Arnold will lead the discussion. The meeting will start by going “around the room” and giving everyone a chance to update the group on their “happenings”. Please RSVP to Ben, an accurate headcount will help him figure out the refreshments.

September Pantry Providers

LAST MONTH FOR FOOD COLLECTION -

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our summer food collection so far. We are bringing donations to the Wheeling & Elk Grove pantries every month and they are so appreciative. We have one more month to go this year! We look to autumn for our **September focus: Coffee, Tea, and Baking Basics (instant coffee, tea bags, small bags of flour & sugar, salt, baking soda, baking powder, cooking oil, etc.)** These are comfort items as well as staples desperately needed in anyone's pantry. As always, we have a focus but any nonperishable food items are appreciated, as well as toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. as these products cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits. Please bring your donations to the narthex or church office. THANK YOU! The parishioners of St Simons are making a difference.

HOPE HAS A PULSE & IT BEATS IN YOU

St. Simon's Episcopal Church BLOOD DRIVE

WHEN & WHERE

Saturday - October 10, 2026
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Parish Hall
717 West Kirchhoff Road
Arlington Hts, IL 60005

Blood donation tips

GOVERNMENT PHOTO ID REQUIRED



Eat a healthy meal &
drink plenty of water
before donating.



Wear a shirt with
short or easy-to-
roll sleeves.



Bring something to
pass the time (ex:
headphones or a book.)



◀ **Schedule your appointment**
Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome!

 **versiti™**
Blood Center of Illinois

LIVE-STREAM NOTICE

A reminder, this public service will be live-streamed and your image or the image of any children or vulnerable adults in your care may appear in the video. By your entry and presence in this service, you agree on behalf of yourself and any children or vulnerable adults attending with you to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and also agree to our use of such images in any and all media.

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Our Cover Art: JESUS MAFA. The Unforgiving Servant, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/48396> [retrieved September 9, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

In this dramatic depiction of the parable of the unforgiving servant, the viewer is thrust into the middle of the narrative. In the background, we see an unforgiving servant demanding from another a debt he is owed. The forgiving lord is being told of the vengeful nature of one of the servants upon whom he had mercy. The faces of the messenger and lord display shock and anger at the forgiven servant's lack of compassion. Undoubtedly, the viewer is inspired to feel similar levels of indignation. From this parable and painting, we should be reminded that a merciful heart is one that mirrors God's.

St. Simon's Episcopal Church

717 W. Kirchhoff Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005
847.259.2930 ~ office@saintsimons.org ~ www.saintsimons.org
Parish Office Hours ~ Monday—Thursday ~ 9:00am—3:00pm

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago*

The Rev. Jennifer Hulen, *Rector*
Jo Gantzer, *Associate for Parish Ministry*
Martin Pazdioch, *Music Director*

Today's Service Leaders

Presider & Preacher	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Crucifer	Sara Lewandowski
Chalice Minister	Jo Gantzer
Reader	Deborah Dresser
Intercessor	Dianne Shields
Ushers	Allison Newhouse
	Cleo Nykol
Altar Guild	Dave Howley
Porter	Myk Snider
Pianist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	David Romanowski