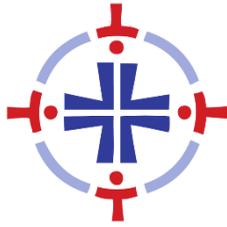




St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Second Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 1, 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

** Indicates the assembly stands, if able.*

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

We are about to enter sacred time.

This is a place of rest and challenge,
of comfort and discomfort,
of many questions and few answers.
All are holy.

Jesus invites us to make this time and this place sacred by our presence and intention.

So I invite you, in these moments, to loosen the grip of those things that constrict your heart,

your fears
your anxieties
your regrets
and everything that would distract you

Be here, in this moment. Allow yourself to connect with the presence of God in the good people around you and to the Spirit within you.

It is Jesus who invites you, just as you are, and waits to receive you.

*Opening Hymn 470 "There's a wideness in God's mercy"

Beecher

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy like the wide-ness of the sea;
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heaven;
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure of the mind;

there's a kind-ness in his jus - tice, which is more than lib - er - ty.
 there is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given.
 and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.

There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good;
 There is plen - ti - ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed;
 If our love were but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word;

there is mer - cy with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 there is joy for all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 and our life would be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

A Penitential Order

Blessed the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we might receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14, 16

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

Most merciful God,

we are in prison, enslaved

in our fears, opinions, and habits

by what we have done,

and by what has been done to us.

We are not free to love you with our whole heart;

we are not free to love our neighbor or ourselves.

We live under the ever increasing burden of our taskmasters.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

who proclaimed release to the captives,

free us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, release you, through our Lord Jesus Christ, from all that would entangle you, liberate you to live in true freedom, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Kyrie

S-95

Cantor or Choir *All* *Cantor or Choir*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

All *Cantor or Choir* *All*

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all we who have lost the freedom to follow where you lead, and bring us again with willing hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The Assembly is seated

The First Lesson

Genesis 12:1-4a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great

nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Psalter

Psalm 121

If I look to the mountains,
will they come to my aid?
My help is the Lord,
who made earth and the heavens.

**May God, ever wakeful,
keep you from stumbling;
the guardian of Israel
neither rests no sleeps.**

God shields you,
a protector by your side.
The sun shall not harm you by day
nor the moon at night.

**God shelters you from evil,
securing your life.
God watches over you near and far,
now and always.**

The Second Lesson

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

A reading from the letter to the church at Rome.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Assembly stands as they are able to face the Gospeler.

The Gospel Procession

The chant is sung several times before and after the gospel reading

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a bass line on a bass clef staff. The first system contains the lyrics 'Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.' The second system contains the lyrics 'Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.' The music is a simple, rhythmic chant.

The Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not

know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system has the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

A period of silence is shared after the sermon.

***The Response of Faith**

With the whole church

we affirm

**that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ,
empowered by the spirit.**

With people everywhere

we affirm

**God's goodness at the heart of humanity
planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

With all creation

we celebrate

**the miracle and wonder of life,
the unfolding purposes of God
for ever at work in ourselves and the world. Amen ¹**

***The Prayers of the People**

BCP Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for our President, Donald, and all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; For all refugees, for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, the disappeared, and those in prison.

We pray especially for Andrea Bacula, Jan Becker, Megan and Ryan Hart, Sunita Johnston, Jerry Shields, Judy Wade, Maria Whelan, and all patients, family members and staff at Northwest Community Hospital.

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

*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 “When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”
Sung by St. Simon’s Choir

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small:
Love, so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts Arr. Gilbert M. Martin

*Presentation of the Gifts

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures
5 here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: Cre -
10 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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you, holy God, glorious in compassion. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that we might serve all your creatures.

When we had become slaves to disobedience you did not abandon us to live and die in bondage, but in your mercy came to our aid. Again and again you called us into covenant with you. Through prophets and sages you taught us to hope for salvation.

Then in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, incarnate by the Holy Spirit, and born of blessed Mary. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.

He gave himself freely to death and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the liberation of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

We now celebrate the memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension, awaiting his coming in glory, and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that by your goodness and love your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Mary the God-bearer, blessed Simon and all the saints who have found freedom in you. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

AMEN

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 Breaking of the Bread**

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

A period of silence is kept.

Take this bread, share this wine.

In these Christ come to set us free.

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. You may stand or kneel at the rail. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest. If you would like to participate but do not wish to receive the bread and wine, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing instead.

Both the common cup (chalice) and individual cups are offered. Join the line for the chalice on the left (pulpit) side or the line on the right (screen) side to receive the individual cups. Grape juice is available in the individual cups.

Communion Hymn 309

“O Food to pilgrims given”



1 O Food to pil - grims giv - en, O Bread of life from
 2 O stream of love past tell - ing, O pur - est foun - tain,
 3 O Je - sus, by thee bid - den, we here a - dore thee,



hea - ven, O Man - na from on high! We
 well - ing from out the Sa - vior's side! We
 hid - den in forms of bread and wine. Grant



hun - ger; Lord, sup - ply us, nor thy de - lights de -
 faint with thirst; re - vive us, of thine a - bun - dance
 when the veil is riv - en, we may be - hold, in



ny us, whose hearts to thee draw nigh.
 give us, and all we need pro - vide.
 hea - ven, thy coun - te - nance di - vine.

*Post Communion Prayer

After communion, the Presider says:

*Let us pray.

In gratitude for this moment,
 this place,
 those around us,
 Christ among us,
 we give ourselves to you our God.

Take us out to live as changed people
because we have met the risen Christ
and cannot be the same.

**Ask much of us,
expect much from us,
enable much by us,
encourage many through us.**

**So may we live to your glory
both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven.
Through Jesus our brother,
with the aid of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.** ²

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 Solemn Prayer

Let us bow before the Lord.
The people kneel and the Presider says

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, we may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

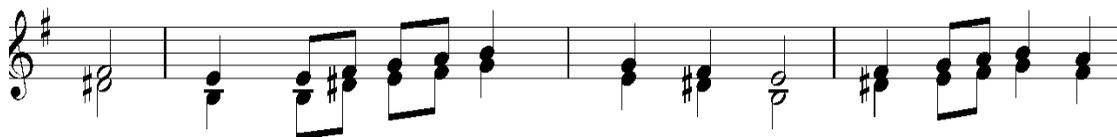
*Closing Hymn 699

“Jesus, Lover of my soul”

Aberystwyth



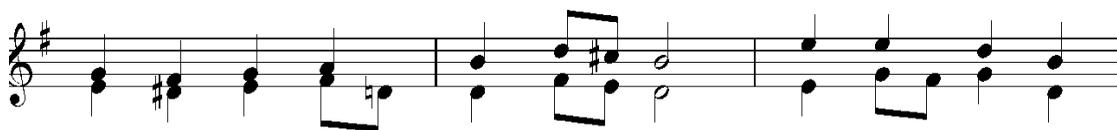
1 Je - sus, Lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bos - om
2 O - ther ref - uge have I none, hangs my help - less soul on
3 Plen-teous grace with thee is found, grace to cleanse from ev - ery



fly, while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest
thee; leave, ah! leave me not a - lone, still sup - port and
sin; let the heal - ing streams a - bound, make and keep me



still is high: hide me, O my Sa - vior, hide,
com - fort me! All my trust on thee is stayed;
pure with - in. Thou of life the foun - tain art,



till the storm of life be past; safe in - to the
all my help from thee I bring; cov - er my de -
free - ly let me take of thee: spring thou up with -



ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last.
fense - less head with the sha - dow of thy wing.
in my heart, rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In the spirit of Lenten simplicity and introspection, we invite you to refrain from applause following the postlude.

Postlude

A note from the graphic artist, Lauren Pittman, regarding our cover art:

"Jesus lists metaphors that swirl around and fly over Nicodemus' head, such as, "the wind blows where it chooses." Jesus' words create a halo of confusion around Nicodemus' head.

I imagine Nicodemus faced away from Jesus with his eyes closed, grappling for answers by playing the metaphors in his head like little vignettes on repeat.

While Nicodemus spins in his searching, Jesus says simply, "We speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony!"

In Jesus' perspective, his explanations to Nicodemus are as real and tangible as earthly things, but for Nicodemus Jesus' words seem so distant, so celestial. Nicodemus is a leader of the Jews; he has all of the knowledge of the law and of doctrine, but he doesn't know Jesus. He's not even really listening to Jesus. Jesus is right in front of his face. He can reach out and touch him. But they are light years away from one another."

I wonder how things would shift for Nicodemus if he would just look at Jesus. . ."

Our Cover Art: Pittman, Lauren Wright. Born Again, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57087> [retrieved February 23, 2026]. Original source: Lauren Wright Pittman, <http://www.lewpstudio.com/>.

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1 Iona Abby Worship Book, p. 65.

2 Iona Abby Worship Book, p. 131-32

St. Simon's Episcopal Church

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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	Dave Howley
Chalice Minister	Jo Gantzer
Readers	Bob Arnold
	John Pope
Intercessor	Deborah Dressser
Ushers	Rachel Jarosik Allison Newhouse
Altar Guild	Dave Howley
Porter	Cleo Nykol
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	David Romanowski