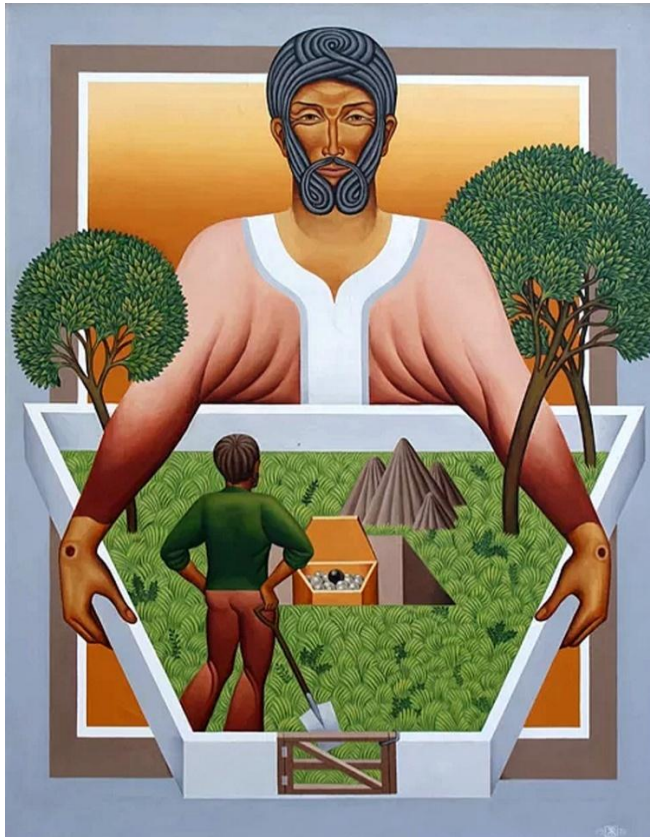
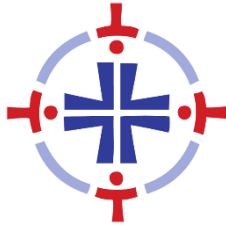




St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, July 26, 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

Opening Hymn 657



“Love divine, all loves excelling”

Hyfrydol



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

***The Gloria**

S-277



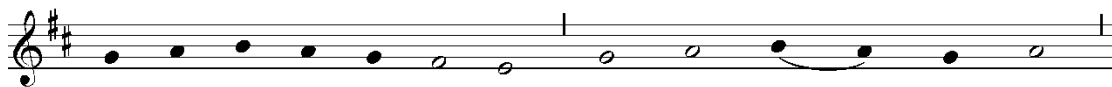
1. Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



2. Lord God, hea-ven-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you,



we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



4. you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;



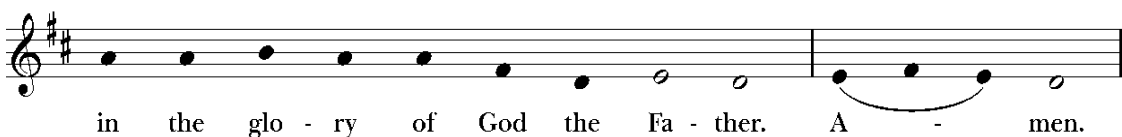
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,



The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The Assembly is seated

The First Lesson

1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the book of 1 Kings.

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do

not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?”

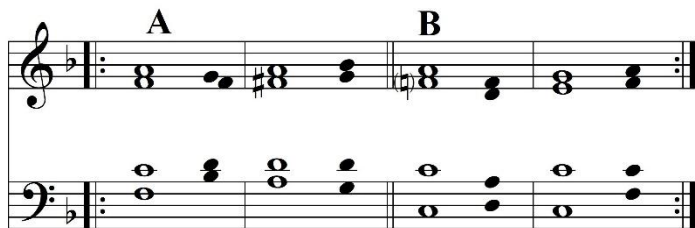
It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

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

Thanks be to God.

The Psalter

Psalm 119:129-136



A Wonderful are your de-crees,
I guard them with my life.

B Unfold your word,
enlighten the simple.

A Longing for you,
I thirst for your teaching.

B Turn and favor me,
because I love your name.

- A Let your word lead my steps,
and evil not master me.
- B Save me from the op-pressor,
so I may keep your com-mands.
- A Smile upon me
and teach me your ways.
- B I shed endless tears
over those who break your law.

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:26-39

A reading from the letter to the Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

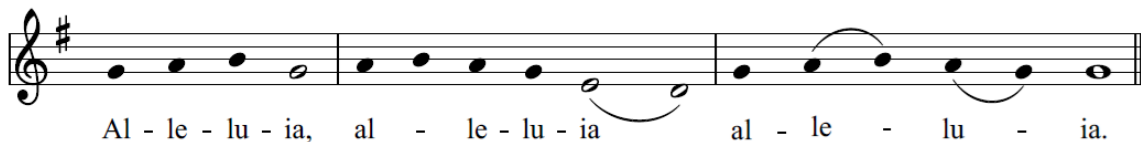
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
Thanks be to God.

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

***The Gospel Procession**

All join in singing both before and after the gospel.

1st time - Intro
2nd time - Congregation



***The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 13:31-33,44-52

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Myk Snyder

A period of silence is shared after the sermon.

***An Affirmation**

We believe that Jesus took the form of a servant,
so we commit ourselves to serve others.

We believe that God is love,
so we commit ourselves to reconciliation.

We believe that Jesus gives us his Spirit,
so we commit ourselves to his work in the world.

We believe that God is the light of life,
so we commit ourselves to bearing God's light in our world.

We believe that the Spirit speaks through us,
so we commit ourselves to proclaim the good news
of abundant life in the world God loves.

***The Prayers of the People**

Friends in Christ,
God invites us to hold the needs of our siblings
as dear to us as our own needs.

Loving our neighbors as ourselves,
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions
on behalf of the church and the world.

Come Holy Spirit, take and transform our societies
That your beloved may find justice, equity, and community.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat

Come Holy Spirit, take our world's leaders and bring renewal
**That your beloved may have safety, peace, food, water, education, and
medicine.**

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat

Come Holy Spirit, fill your Church

That your beloved would be changed in prayer, grow in faith, serve in your name, and partner with you.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat

Come Holy Spirit, cleanse us of all violence in thought, word, and deed

That your beloved may live together in right relationship.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat

Come Holy Spirit, strengthen and heal all who suffer, especially Makayla, Gayle, Lew, Mary Edith, Jan, Sunita, Jerry, Judy, Maria, Ken and Sherry, Grayson, James, Sandy, Marc, Pat, Trish and all patients, family members and staff at Northwest Community Hospital.

That your beloved may turn again to thank and praise you.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat

Come Holy Spirit, console all who mourn

That your beloved may not be overwhelmed by loss, but find comfort and strength.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat

Come Holy Spirit, guide us through change and the unknown

That your beloved may rest in your eternal changelessness.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat

Hear our prayers, God of power, And through the ministry of your Son fill us with your Spirit, that we may desire you as the fullness of life and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world.¹ **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
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;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent,
for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive 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, 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.

A Litany of Farewell

Good Christian people, I bid you pray and give thanks now for Diane Rock who is leaving this community, returning to All Saints, Beverly Hills, California.

For this portion of your lifelong pilgrimage which you have made with us in this place:

Thanks be to God.

For friendships made, celebrations enjoyed, and for moments of nurture:

Thanks be to God.

For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given, promises kept:

Thanks be to God.

For trust and confidence shared; times of good humor and moments of gentle and fierce leadership:

Thanks be to God.

For the Table we have shared with Jesus' gift of himself in bread and wine:

Thanks be to God.

And so, to establish a home with other members of the Body of Christ:

Go in peace.

To continue the journey with new friends a new adventure, new gifts to give and receive:

Go in peace.

To offer wisdom and experience, competence and compassion, in the ministry to which you are called:

Go in peace.

With whatever fears, whatever sadness, whatever excitement may be yours:

Go in peace.

With our faith in you, our hope for you, our love for you:

Go in peace.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord life up his face upon you, and give you peace.

Engagement Opportunities

Offertory

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

Offertory Anthem “Bread of Life” Sung by St. Simon’s Pop-Up Choir

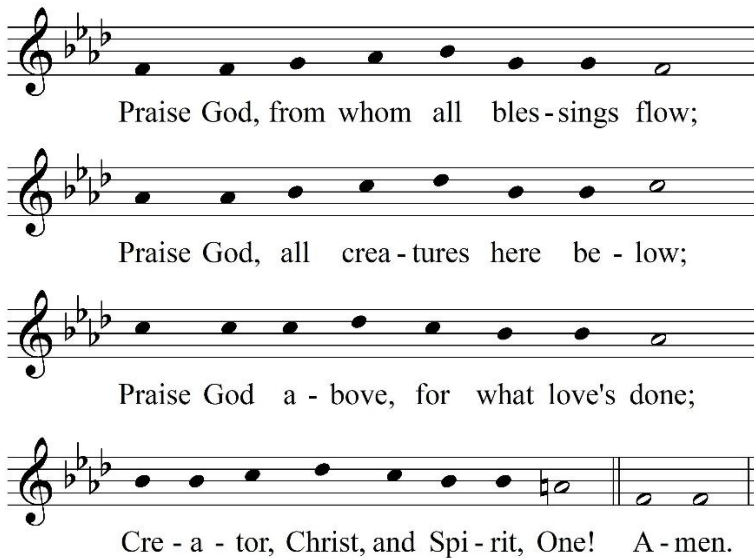
*Bread of love, Cup of grace,
Broken and offered by Christ our Lord;
Bread of love, Cup of grace,
Bring us together with Christ, face to face.*

*Come to the table prepared for all those who believe;
Here at the table are places for all who receive God’s grace.*

*Open your hands to join hands with all those in this place;
Open your heart to take part as we share in this Feast of Grace.*

Text: Carol McClure, Music: Carol McClure

*Presentation of the Gifts



The musical notation is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are written below each staff.

Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow;
Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low;
Praise God a-bove, for what love's done;
Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Spi-rit, One! A-men.

*The Great Thanksgiving

BCP form A

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

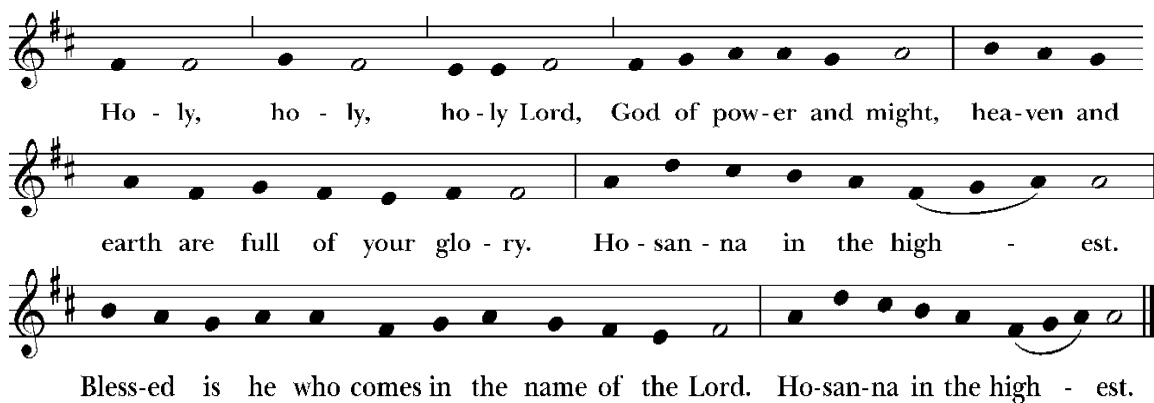
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent **Jesus Christ**, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the **God and Father of all**.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for 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 Fraction

S154

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

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. Wine is offered in individual cups around the outside of the tray. Grape juice is offered in the middle. 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.

Note: Generally, we will begin to sing the communion hymn once the final group of communion recipients has knelt at the rail. This way, more of the congregation can fully participate in singing most of the communion hymn.

Communion Hymn 335 "I am the bread of life" *I am the bread of life*



1	I	am	the	bread	of	life;_____	they	who
2 (The)	Bread	that_____	I	will	give_____	is	my	
3 (Un-)	less_____			you	eat_____	of	the	
4	I	am	the	re -	sur -	rec - tion,_____		
5 (Yes,)	Lord,_____		we	be -	lieve_____	that_____		



1	come	to	me	shall	not_____	hun -	ger;	they	who	be -
2	Flesh	for	the	life	of the	world,_____		and	they	who
3	Flesh	of	the	Son	of_____	Man_____			and_____	
4	I_____		am	the_____		life._____		They	who	be -
5	you_____		are	the_____		Christ,_____			the_____	



1	lieve	in	me	shall	not	thirst.		No	one	can	come	to
2	eat_____		of	this	bread,			they	shall_____	live	for	
3	drink_____		of	his	Blood,	you		shall	not	have	life	with -
4	lieve_____		in	me,				e -	ven_____	if	they	
5	Son_____		of	God				who_____		has		



1	me_____		un -	less	the_____	Fa -	ther	draw	them.	
2	ev -	er._____		they	shall_____	live	for	ev -	er.	
3	in	you.	you	shall	not	have	life	with -	in	you.
4	die,_____			they	shall_____	live	for	ev -	er.	
5	come_____		in -	to_____		the_____		world._____		

Descant

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

Refrain

And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

up, and I will raise them up on the

up, and I will raise them up on the

last day. 1-4

5 Yes, day.

last day. 2 The

3 Un- day.

4

5 Yes, (z)

Final Ending

The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

***Post Communion Prayer**

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 Blessing**

Closing Hymn ♪ “A mighty fortress is our God”



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;



Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.



For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

♪ This symbol, next to a hymn, denotes that the hymn (music and/or lyrics) was identified as a “favorite” as part of our recent Hymn Favorites survey.

Worship Space “I Spy” Adventure –



This summer we are drawing attention to the places our building tells a story about ourselves and about God.

<< Can you spot this?

What it tells us about our story:

The instructions about how to be a Christ-following community come from instruction letters written by those who actually were students of Jesus or had special encounters with him – the Greek word for these parchment sheets is *epistolē*, or ‘epistle’ in English. These early churches had many challenges as they learned new ethics and interpersonal values than they had ever practiced before like mutual respect, forbearance, forgiveness.... We all need reminders, so each week we hear a lesson from an epistle – that’s the lesson after the psalm. Notice the flame? This is part of the Pentecost window celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit which empowers the life of congregations. She’s Here!

Answer: Look at the middle window on the right/west side of the church

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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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*

The Rev. Mary Haggerty, *Sabbatical Supply Priest*

Jo Gantzer, *Associate for Parish Ministry*

Martin Pazdioch, *Music Director*

Today's Service Leaders

Presider	The Rev. Mary Haggerty
Preacher	Myk Snider
Crucifer	Sara Lewandowski
Chalice Minister	Rene Campe
Readers	Pat Engbrecht
	Dave Howley
Intercessor	René Schreiner
Ushers	Barb Drummond
	Robbin Thompson
Altar Guild	Dave Howley
Porter	Myk Snider
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Viola	Hamilton Avila
Technical Production Team	Alan Medsker