



St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 30, 2025



Welcome to St. Simon's

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

St. Simon's exists so that everyone can experience the abundant life Jesus came to bring. While there are many, many ways God's abundance comes to us, here at St. Simon's we understand our call to help each other and our neighbors...

...experience delight and joy as a way to connect with God.

...have basic needs met as a way to be safe.

...enjoy connection to community as a way to avoid loneliness.

If you are here today, you belong, no matter where you are on your journey of faith. St. Simon's is a joyful and hopeful congregation that invites everyone to this abundant life, doubts and questions 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.

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.*

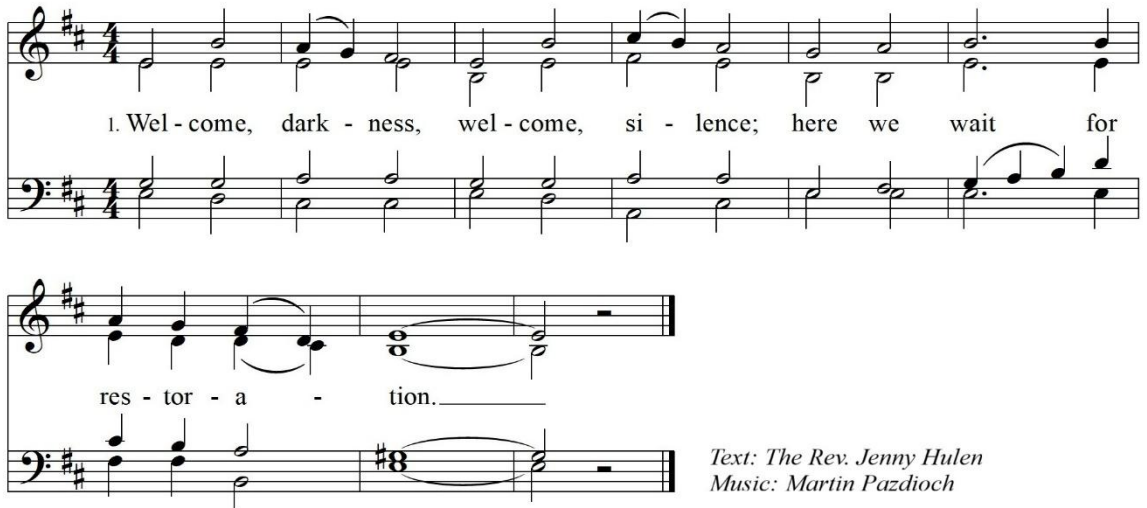
Please silence your cell phone.

Prelude

Our liturgy begins in stillness as the choir and altar party process in silence.

Please remain seated.

*After a quiet introduction, the cantor sings the chant first,
then the congregation joins in singing.*



1. Wel - come, dark - ness, wel - come, si - lence; here we wait for

res - tor - a - tion.

Text: The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Music: Martin Pazdioch

Blessed are you Holy and Living one.

You come to set your people free.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Trisagion

S-99

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The Assembly is seated

The First Lesson

Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.’

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;

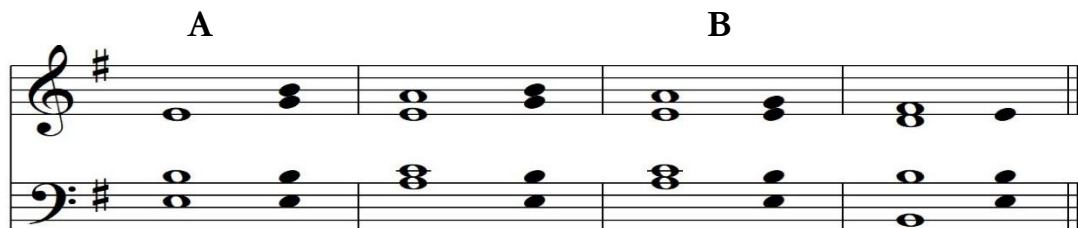
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

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

The Psalter

Psalm 122



- A With joy I heard them say,
"Let us go to the Lord's house!"
- B And now, Jer-u-sa-lem,
we stand inside your gates.
- A Jerusalem, the city so built
that city and temple are one.
- B To you the tribes go up,
every tribe of the Lord.
- A It is the law of Israel
to honor God's name.
- B The seats of law are here,
the thrones of David's line.
- A Pray peace for Jer-u-sa-lem:
happiness for your homes,
- B safety inside your walls,
peace in your great houses.
- A For love of family and friends
I say, "Peace be with you!"
- B For love of the Lord's own house
I pray for your good.

The Second Lesson

Romans 13:11-14

A reading from the letter to the church in Rome.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

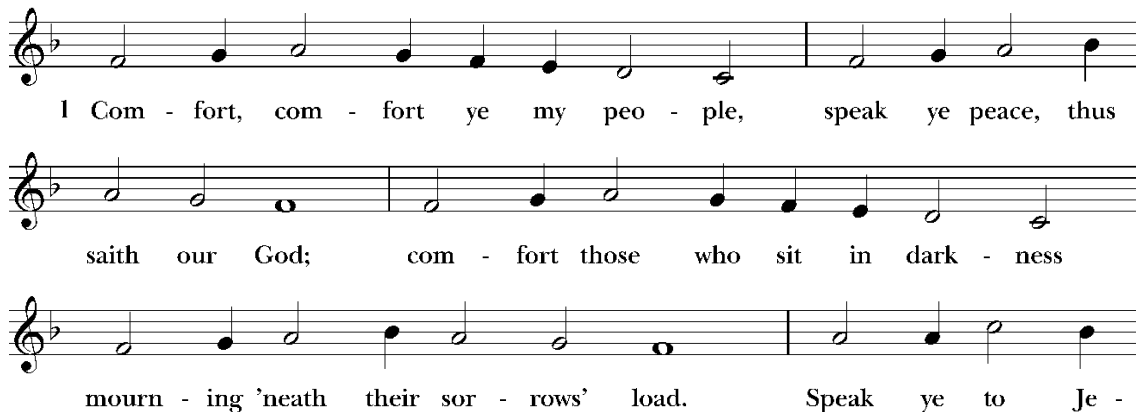
Thanks be to God.

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

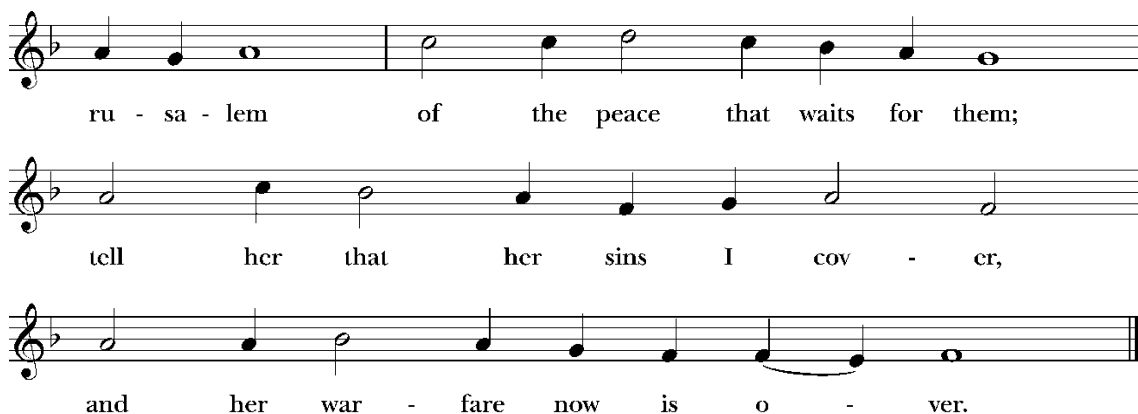
*The Gospel Procession

All join in singing both before and after the gospel.

Hymn 67



I Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -



*The Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,
as be - fits God's ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;
and all flesh shall see the to - ken
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

The Sermon

Jo Gantzer

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**

Form I

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying
"Lord, have mercy."

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, Donald, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in
authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this village for every city and community, and for those who live in them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to
conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the
suffering, especially we remember Peggi Adams, Jan Becker, Chuck Braden,
Mike Bruce, Sharon Grieger, Sandra Janowski, Sunita Johnston, Bonnie Liess,
Ed Petit, Jerry Shields, and Maria Whelan, and all patients, family members and
staff at Northwest Community Hospital, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for the
disappeared, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for
them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Blessed Simon and of all the saints, let us commend
ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence.

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your
servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in
glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Amen.

The Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our separation from God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept

**Most merciful God,
we are far from home
carried away from your presence,
by the enemy without,
and the enemy within.**

**We cannot sing your songs in this foreign land;
we are scattered, separated from our neighbors and from our true selves.
We dwell in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
make a path in the wilderness for us and bring us home again;
that our dwelling place may be evermore in you,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, welcome you gladly home through our Lord Jesus Christ, receive you as a beloved child, 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.

Words of Welcome and Engagement Opportunities

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

Offertory Anthem

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

*Comfort, comfort now my people;
speak of peace — so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them.
Tell them that their war is over,
God will reign in peace forever.*

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

*Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let our hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad.
And all flesh shall see the token,
that God's word is never broken.*

Arranged by Brenda Austin, Text: Johannes Olearius

*Presentation of the Gifts

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures

here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host: Cre -

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

*The Great Thanksgiving

BCP Form B

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
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. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary the God-bearer, Blessed Simon and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
he will give to all the faith - ful
his own self for heaven - ly food.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a '2' indicating a second ending or a specific part of the hymn. The score concludes with a double bar line on the fifth staff.

A period of silence is kept.

The Gifts of God freely given for all.

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.

Communion Hymn

“Draw Us on the Spirit’s Tether”



1. Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, For when
2. As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er In the
3. All our meals and all our liv - ing Make as



hum - bly in your name, Two or
name of Christ to sup, Then with
sac - ra - ments of you, That by



three are met to - geth - er, You are in the
thanks to God the Fa - ther Break the bread and
car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing, We may be dis -



midst of them; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
So now bind our friend - ship up.
We will serve with faith a - new.

***Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**O Holy One,
for whom we wait,
we have been guests at your table,
sustained by your word and sacrament.
Summon out in us,
whom you have fed,
generosity of spirit,
to ensure that all the hungry are nourished,
the vulnerable are protected,
and earth's barren places are fertile with
faith, hope, and love.
This we ask through Christ our brother,
with the aid of the Holy Spirit. 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 Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound”



1 Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior
2 He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's
3 He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - ery heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure; and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim; and heaven's e - ter - nal



pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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*

Martin Pazdioch, *Music Director*

Jo Gantzer, *Associate for Parish Ministry*

Today's Service Leaders

Presider	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Preacher	Jo Gantzer
Crucifer	Dave Howley
Chalice Minister	Sara Lewandowski
Readers	Clara Callahan Michael Medsker
Intercessor	Sandy Ladd
Ushers	Barb Drummond Robin Thompson
Altar Guild	Maura Howley
Porter	Dave Howley
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	Alan Medsker