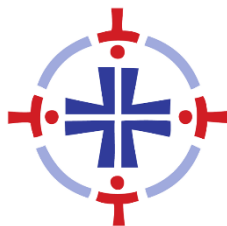




St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 1, 2026



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.*

Processional Hymn

"What does the Lord require?"

Aurelia



1. What does the Lord re - quire__ for praise and of - fer - ing?
2. Rul - ers of earth, give ear!__ Should you not jus - tice show?
3. Still down the a - ges ring__ the proph-et's stern com-mands.
4. How shall my soul ful - fil__ God's law so hard and high?



What sac - ri - fice de - sire,__ or trib - ute bid you bring?
Will God your plead-ing hear,__ while crime and cruel-ty grow?
To mer - chant, work - er, king__ he brings God's high de-mands.
Let Christ en - due our will__ with grace to for - ti - fy.



Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum - bly with your God.
Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum - bly with your God.
Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum - bly with your God.
Then just - ly, in mer - cy we'll hum - bly walk with God.



Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum-bly with your God.
Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum-bly with your God.
Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum-bly with your God.
Then just - ly, in mer - cy we'll hum-bly walk with God.

Blessed be God: the Author, the Only-Begotten, and the Gift.
You come to set your people free.

The Gloria

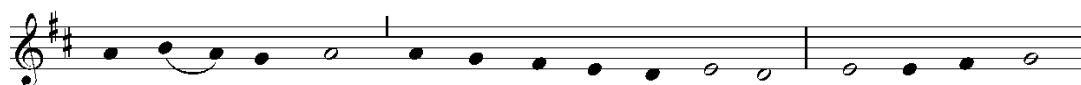
S-277



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,



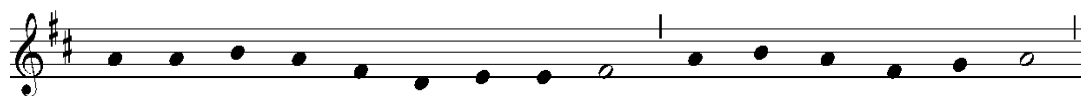
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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



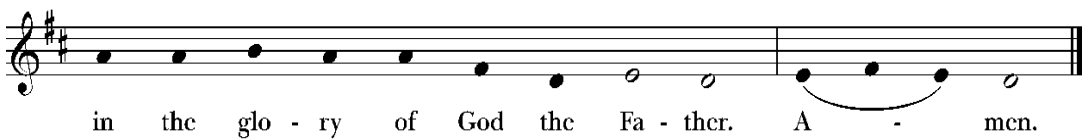
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



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.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; 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

Micah 6:1-8

A reading from the book of Micah.

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

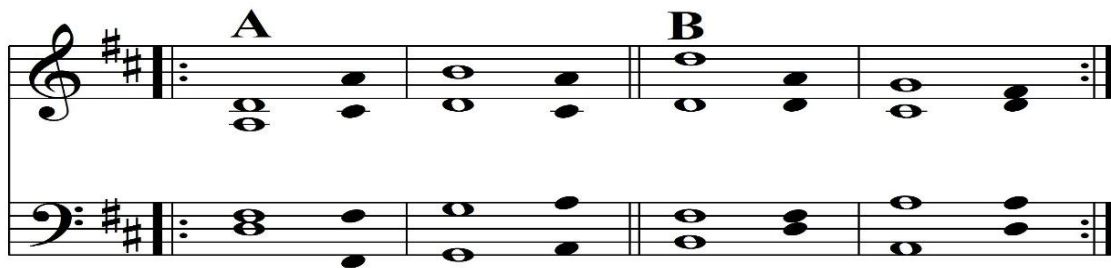
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

The Psalter

Psalm 15



A Lord, who is welcome in your house?

Who can rest on your holy mountain?

B Those who walk with in-te-gri-ty

and do only what is right,

A Speaking the truth with courage.

They never spread slander

B or abuse their friends

or condemn their neighbors.

A They disdain the godless,

but honor those who be-lieve.

B Before God, they give their word

and keep it at any cost.

A They neither lend for gain

nor take bribes against the guiltless.

B These are the just:

they stand for ever un-shaken.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from the first letter to the church at Corinth.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the 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.



Sp - rit, take us home, take us home by a-noth-er way, take us
long way 'round the ty-rants and their schemes. Give us strength to
walk, show us dreams of a bet-ter day, and we'll pave the way with
just - ice go - ing home by a - no - ther way.

*The Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

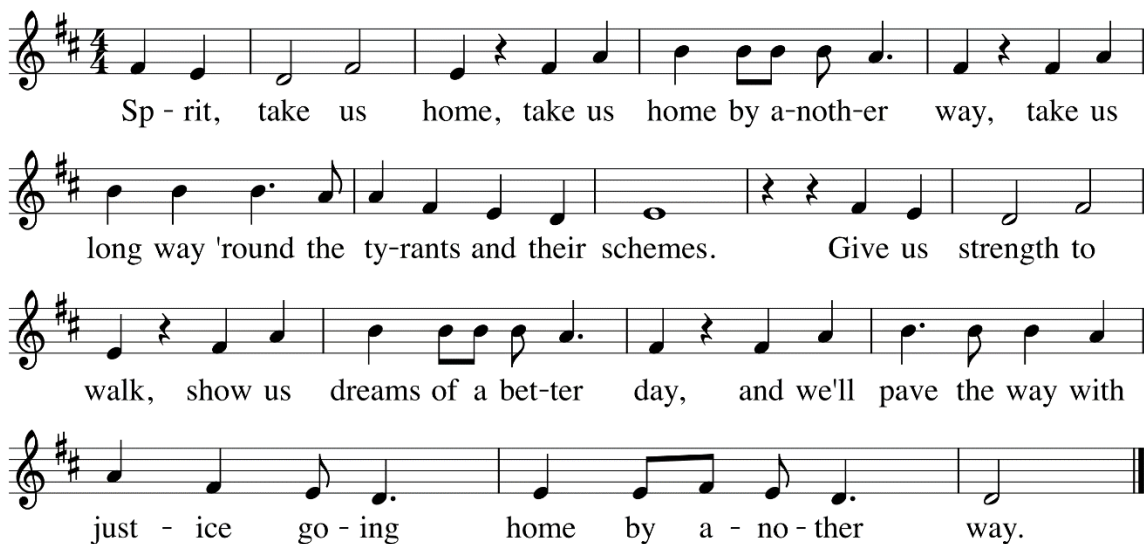
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.



Sp - rit, take us home, take us home by a-noth-er way, take us
long way 'round the ty-rants and their schemes. Give us strength to
walk, show us dreams of a bet-ter day, and we'll pave the way with
just - ice go - ing home by a - no - ther way.

The Sermon

Jenny Hulen

A period of silence is shared after the sermon.

*An Affirmation

As children of God, we affirm:

That God, who is Love, created all and called it good,
that God is present with all of creation,
and that, in darkness and in light, God is faithful;
therefore we, too, seek to be faithful.

That Jesus came to show us Love with a human face,
that he taught justice and reconciliation and
suffered on our behalf,
and that through his faithful example, he embodies hope;
therefore we, too, seek to be people of justice,
reconciliation, and hope.

That the Holy Spirit guides and accompanies us,
that this same Spirit offers wisdom discernment,
and that, when we are open, the Spirit can always find a way;
therefore, we seek to be people filled with God's Spirit:
discerning, loving and transforming our world.
Amen.

***The Prayers of the People**

BCP Form II, Modified

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world, for Sean, our
Presiding Bishop, for Paula, our Bishop, for this gathering, and for all we who
are ministers by virtue of our baptism.
Pray for the Church.

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

I ask your prayers for peace, especially in areas of conflict, for goodwill among
nations, and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

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

I ask your prayers for our country, for our President, Donald, for mutual respect across differences, and for an end to the endemic violence in thought and action in our communities.

Pray we may see Christ in one another.

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

I ask your prayers for this congregation, for the Holy Spirit's guidance in all we do, and for courage to follow where God leads.

Pray for clarity.

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

I ask your prayers for all refugees, for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, the disappeared, and those in prison. Especially we remember Jan Becker, Mike Bruce, Roz Camardella, Sharon Grieger, Christopher Hay, Sandra Janowski, Sunita Johnston, Bonnie Liess, Jerry Shields, Judy Wade, Maria Whelan, and all patients, family members and staff at Northwest Community Hospital.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

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

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.

Pray that they may find and be found by God.

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

I ask your prayers and thanksgivings for this congregation, for our neighbors, friends, and families.

Pray for all those to whom we are connected.

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

I ask your prayers for all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light.

Pray for those who have died.

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

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

**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.

Engagement Opportunities

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

Offertory Anthem “The Beatitudes” Music: Richard Shephard

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

“Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Sung by St. Simon's Choir

Text: from Matt. 5:1-12

*Presentation of the Gifts



5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

*The Great Thanksgiving

BCP Form B



Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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 in the mystery of

the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:

S 128

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven 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.

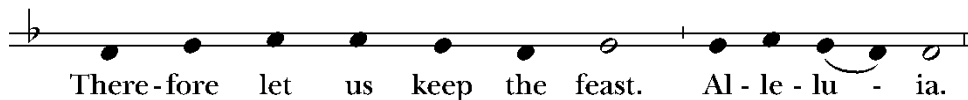
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and Glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.


A - men.

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.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:



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 consumes the host with those online 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.

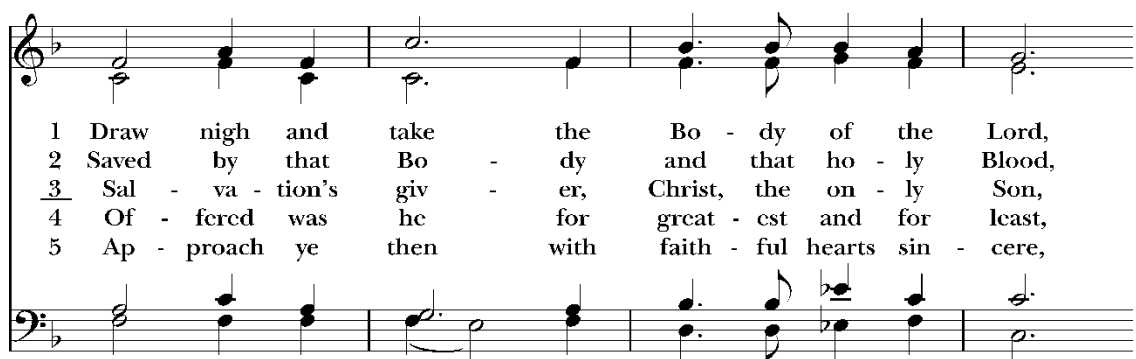
You may stand or kneel at the rail. Wine is offered in individual cups around the outside of the tray. Grape juice is offered in the middle. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest. If you would like to participate but do not wish to receive the bread and wine, simply cross your arms 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.

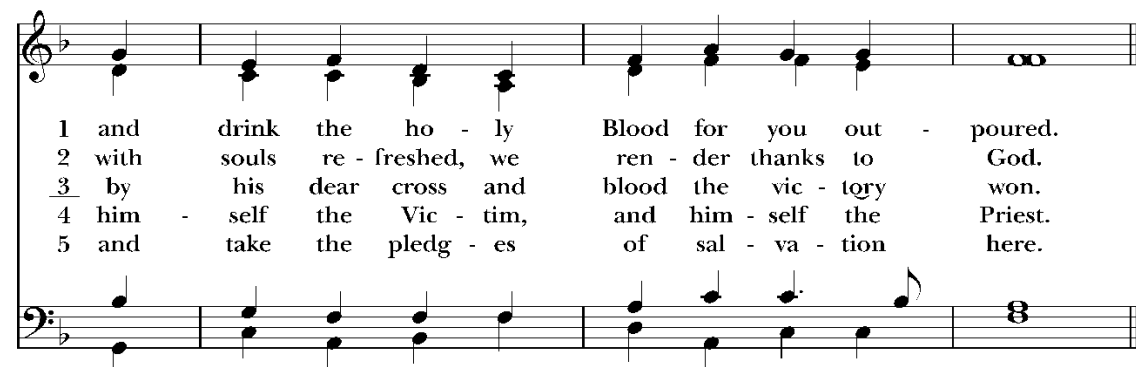
Communion Hymn 328

“Draw nigh and take”

Bangor Antiphoner



1 Draw nigh and take the Bo - dy of the Lord,
 2 Saved by that Bo - dy and that ho - ly Blood,
 3 Sal - va - tion's giv - er, Christ, the on - ly Son,
 4 Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,
 5 Ap - proach ye then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



1 and drink the ho - ly Blood for you out - poured.
 2 with souls re - freshed, we ren - der thanks to God.
 3 by his dear cross and blood the vic - tory won.
 4 him - self the Vic - tim, and him - self the Priest.
 5 and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.

6 He that his saints in this world rules and shields
 to all believers life eternal yields;

7 with heavenly bread he makes the hungry whole,
 gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

***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**

The blessing of God Almighty, the Author, the Only-begotten, and the Gift be with you this day, and remain with you until the day dawns and the shadows flee, and the Morning Star rises in your hearts forever.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

“Rejoice you pure in heart”

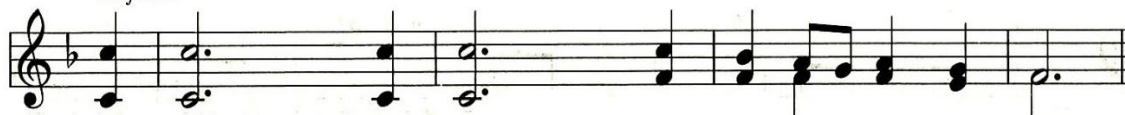


1 Re - joice, you pure in heart; lift prais - es to the sky;
2 Bright youth and sea - soned age, strong souls and spir - its meek,
3 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,
4 Yes, on through life's long path, still chant - ing as you go,



Your fes - tal ban - ner wave with joy, the cross of Christ raise high!
Raise high your free, ex - ult - ing song, God's won - drous prais - es speak.
Send forth the hymns the saints have loved, the psalms of an - cient days.
From youth to age, by night and day, in glad - ness and in woe:

Refrain



Re - joice, re - joice, re - joice, give thanks and sing.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

An Invitation to 1 Corinthians

Author: The Apostle Paul

Date: Between A.D. 53-55

Theme: Christian lifestyle in a pagan society

Historical Background: Corinth was a large, bustling, wealthy city. Because of its location, goods and people from around the world flowed in and out of its ports. It was a center for art, philosophy, and religion. It contained a number of pagan temples including large ones to Apollo and Aphrodite. The city had a reputation for vice, immorality, and debauchery. Paul spent 18 months establishing a church in Corinth during his second missionary journey. This letter, composed three or four years later, was written in response to reports Paul received concerning problems in the church.

Characteristics: The Corinthian church destroys the myth of the early church as the model for us to imitate! Seduction by the surrounding pagan culture and a hyper-spirituality had led this church into a host of problems. As a result, 1 Corinthians is full of information about how a Christian lifestyle differs from that of the culture as a whole. At points, there is difficulty in understanding 1 Corinthians because all we possess are Paul's responses. Thus, commentators differ on whether some passages in the letter are meant as Paul's advice, or if he is quoting from their letter before refuting that position. Structurally, the letter falls into two parts. Part one (ch. 1-6) deals with four problems report to Paul (1:11), while part two (ch 7-15) looks at a variety of issues about which the Corinthians had written to Paul (7:11).

Introduction to 1 Corinthians NIV Serendipity Bible for Study Groups

Isthmus of Corinth, isthmus dividing the Saronic Gulf (an inlet of the Aegean Sea) from the Gulf of Corinth (Modern Greek: Korinthiakós), an inlet of the Ionian Sea. The Isthmus of Corinth connects the Peloponnese with mainland Greece. It is made up of heavily faulted limestone rising from the south in terraces to a bleak, windswept central plateau almost 300 feet above sea level. In ancient times ships were dragged over the isthmus in transit between the Saronikós and Corinthian gulfs, and in 67 ce the Roman emperor Nero began a canal through it. *Encyclopedia Britannica*



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 & Preacher	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Crucifer	Sara Lewandowski
Chalice Minister	Karen Waechter
Readers	Mark Leimbeck Anna McKinley
Intercessor	John Pope
Ushers	Barb Drummond Rachel Jarosik
Altar Guild	Betty Bacula
Porter	Rich Milburn
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	Mike Krause