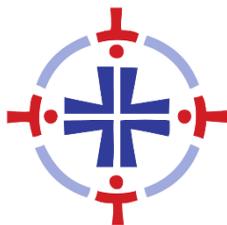




**St. Simon's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**The First Sunday in Lent**  
**Sunday, February 22, 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

**The Great Litany** - *This portion of the service is found in the Great Litany booklet.*

*The Great Litany is an ancient prayer of petition and confession. It invokes the Trinity, asks for God's protection from evil, spiritual harm, and natural calamities, and claims the power of Christ's Incarnation, life, death, and resurrection for our lives. When we pray this prayer in procession, walking around and through the congregation, we symbolize that our prayers are bound together in community.*

## 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.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit into the wilderness: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find our liberation from them in you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalter

Psalm 32

Happy the pardoned,  
whose sin is canceled,  
in who God finds  
no evil, no deceit.

**While I hid my sin,  
my bones grew weak  
from endless groaning.**

Day and night,  
under the weight of your hand,  
my strength withered  
as in a summer drought.

**Then I stopped hiding my sin  
and spoke out,  
“God, I confess my wrong,”  
and you pardoned me.**

No wonder the faithful  
pray to you in danger!  
Even a sudden flood  
will never touch them.

**You, my shelter,  
you save me from ruin,  
You encircle me  
with songs of freedom.**

“I show you the path to walk.  
as your teacher,  
I watch out for you.

**“Do not be a stubborn mule,  
Needing bridle and bit  
to be tamed.”**

Evil brings grief;  
trusting in God brings love.  
Rejoice in the Lord.  
Be glad and sing,  
you faithful and just.

## **The Second Lesson**

Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the letter to the church at Rome.

As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

## The Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1-11

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon

Mike Bruce

*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** <sup>1</sup>

### \*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.**

## Recognition of New Members

### Liturgy of Welcome

The Church is the Body of which Jesus is the Head, and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood and ground of truth.

These, our siblings in Christ, have found a home here, have heard God call them beloved, and have experienced God's love in this place. Now they seek to deepen their relationship and commitment to this congregation

*The Presider addresses the questions to the new members:*

Do you reaffirm your faith in God the Creator, Jesus the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit the Sustainer?

I do.

Will you join the people of God at St. Simon's in our mission as we pray and worship, proclaim the gospel, and promote justice peace, and love?

I will, with God's help.

Will you be among your siblings in Christ regularly for corporate worship, and work, pray, and give for the spread of God's kingdom?

I will, with God's help.

Will you join us in our work so that everyone can experience the abundant life Jesus came to bring?

I will, with God's help.

*The presider addresses this question to the congregation*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support and uphold these, our siblings on their journey of faith?

**We will, with God's help**

Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the life journey that brought each of these, our siblings in Christ, to join this faith community. We celebrate the unique impact each will make here and already has made here, through their presence, gifts and talents. May this congregation offer support in times of trouble and rejoice with them always. May our faith community strengthen their faith and deepen their discipleship. Through Christ our Lord, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**

## Engagement Opportunities

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

Offertory Hymn 142 “Lord, who throughout these forty days” *St Flavian*

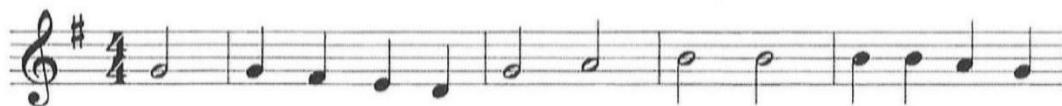


1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,  
 2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,  
 3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,  
 4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,  
 5 A - bid with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.  
 2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.  
 3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.  
 4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bid.  
 5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

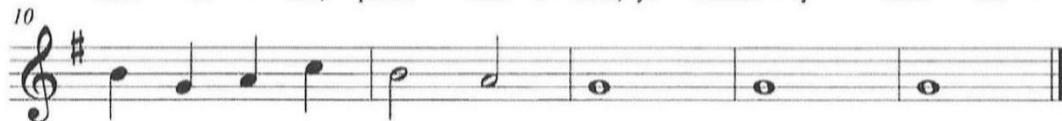
Presentation of the Gifts



5 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 -



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 our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to live and die in our sin, 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.*

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. 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

“When we are tested”

*Slane*



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

## \*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. <sup>2</sup>**

*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*

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize those things that enslave us and put our whole trust in your liberating Word, so that we may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### \*Closing Hymn 147

“Now let us all with one accord”

*Bourbon*



1 Now let us all with one ac - cord, in  
2 The cov - e - nant, so long re - vealed to  
3 Your love, O Lord, our sin - ful race has  
4 Re - mem - ber, Lord, though frail we be, in  
5 There - fore, we pray you, Lord, for - give; so



1 com - pa - ny with a - ges past, keep vi - gil with our  
2 those of faith in for - mer time, Christ by his own ex -  
3 not re - turned, but fal - si - fied; au - thor of mer - cy,  
4 your own i - mage were we made; help us, lest in anx -  
5 when our wan - derings here shall cease, we may with you for



1 heaven - ly Lord in his temp - ta - tion and his fast.  
2 am - ple sealed, the Lord of love, in love sub - lime.  
3 turn your face and grant re - pent - ance for our pride.  
4 i - e - ty, we cause your Name to be be - trayed.  
5 ev - er live, in love and u - ni - ty and peace.

## 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

### 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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1 Iona Abby Worship Book, p. 65

2 Iona Abby Worship Book, p. 131-32

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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*

Jo Gantzer, *Associate for Parish Ministry*

Martin Pazdioch, *Associate for Music*

## Today's Service Leaders

Presider	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Preacher	Mike Bruce
Crucifer	Sara Lewandowski
Chalice Minister	Jo Gantzer
Readers	Rachel Jarosik Dave Howley
Intercessor	Dianne Shields
Ushers	Barb Drummond   Bill Haggerty
Altar Guild	Betty Bacula
Porter	Alan Medsker
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	Mike Krause