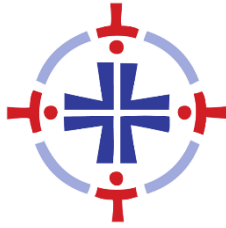




St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, September 27, 2026**



Welcome to St. Simon's

Celebrating God's love for all. Embodying Christ in the world.

If you are here today, you belong, no matter where you are on your journey of faith. Welcome.

St Simon's is a joyful and hopeful congregation that invites all who seek God into community, questions and doubts included. Please feel free to participate as fully in the worship of God as you wish. Lift your voice in praise, respond to the prayers and readings, and come to the altar for communion or a blessing. Or, if you prefer, sit back quietly and allow God's Spirit to speak to you in the way that feels most comfortable.

Welcome, Children. You are invited as full participants in our worship just as you are. God delights in you.

Welcome, Elders. Your wisdom and experience are valued in our community. God has shaped you and you are beautiful.

Welcome, you.

Welcome, everyone, to God's table. This is the table of the risen Lord Jesus Christ, and all who seek God are invited to share in communion. If you wish to participate, but prefer not to receive communion, please join everyone coming forward. Cross your arms over your chest and we will be glad to give you a blessing instead. If you wish to have communion brought to you at your seat, or if you desire a gluten-free wafer, please notify an usher.

Wherever you find yourself on the journey, there is a place for you here.
May you encounter God in this community.

The Holy Eucharist

** Indicates the assembly stands, if able.*

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

Prelude

Words of Welcome

We are here because Jesus has called us -
strangers and friends,
locals and visitors,
believers and doubters,
the certain and the curious.

It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers
and invites to his table where, in bread and wine,
he meets us
and through him we, who are different,
Are joined to each other.

So come,
not because you understand,
but because you are understood.

Come,
not because of how you feel,
but because God has food for you.

Come,
Not because you deserve a place,
but because Jesus invites you,
just as you are.

Opening Hymn

“The Church’s one foundation”



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,



1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.



1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

Blessed be God: the Author, the Only-Begotten, and the Gift.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Gloria

S202

1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly
King, God the Fa-ther Al - might - y.
4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;
5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the

right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us.

8. For thou on-ly art ho-ly; thou on-ly art the Lord; 9. thou

on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most

high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.____

A - - - - - men.

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you declare your love chiefly in showing mercy and compassion: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

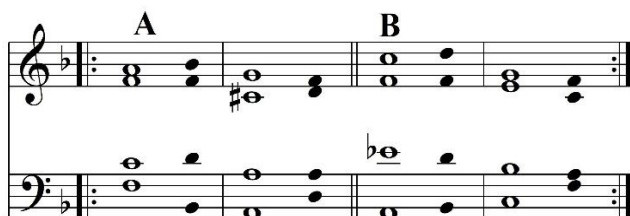
Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Psalter

Psalm 25:1-8



- A Lord, I give myself to you.
I trust you, God;
- B do not fail me,
nor let my enemies gloat.
- A No one loyal is shamed,
but traitors know dis-grace.
- B Teach me how to live,
Lord, show me the way.
- A Steer me toward your truth,
you, my saving God,
- B you, my constant hope.
Recall your tenderness, your lasting love.
- A Remember me, not my faults,
the sins of my youth.
- B To show your own goodness,
God, re-member me.
- A Good and just is the Lord,
guiding those who stray.
- B God leads the poor,
pointing out the path.

The Second Lesson

Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from the letter to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 once through both before and after the gospel.

Organ Introduction: 



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. A - men.

***The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 21:23-32

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

René Schreiner

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

Recognizing God is always present and active in the events of our world and our lives, let us welcome all we experience, consenting to God's action in whatever circumstance we find ourselves.

We open ourselves to the present moment and embrace what is
(Silence)

We welcome fear and anxiety, inviting God's presence in them
(*Silence*)

We welcome joy and delight, recognizing God's face there
(*Silence*)

We welcome brokenness and vulnerability, resting in God's tenderness toward us and those we love. We especially hold Mary Edith, Jan, Sunita, Maria, Sandy, Judy, Martin, Makayla, Teri-Ellen, James, Marc, Trish, Pat and all patients, family members and staff at Northwest Community Hospital in your light
(*Silence*)

We welcome the memory of all those we love but see no more
(*Silence*)

We hold our enemies in compassion
(*Silence*)

We release our need to control and our fear of the unknown
(*Silence*)

We surrender our judgments and expectations
(*Silence*)

We let go of our desire for esteem and approval
(*Silence*)

We consent to your action in us and in the world around us, offering ourselves to you and to each other. Through Christ our brother, with the aid of the Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen**

***The Confession and Absolution**

Let us confess our sins to God.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. 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 saintsims*

Offertory Hymn ♪ “Immortal, invisible, God only wise” *St. Denio*



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry, thou rul - est in light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish, like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - tor - ious, thy great Name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but nought chan - geth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee.

*Presentation of the Gifts



Praise God, from whom all bles-sings flow; Praise God, all crea-tures



here be - low; Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Cre -



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.

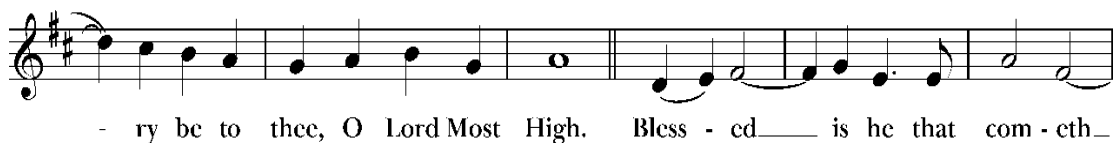
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you thanks, Holy One, for you made us, and before us, you made the world we inhabit, and before the world, you made the eternal home in which, through Christ, we have a place.

All that is spectacular, all that is plain, have their origin in you; all that is lovely, all who are loving, point to you as their fulfillment. And grateful as we are for the world we know, we particularly praise you, whom eternity cannot contain, for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

For his life which informs our living, for his compassion which changes our hearts, for his clear speaking which contradicts our harmless generalities, for his disturbing presence, his innocent suffering; his fearless dying, and his rising to life breathing forgiveness, we praise you and worship him.

Here too our gratitude rises for the promise of the Holy Spirit, who even yet, even now, confronts us with your claims and attracts us to your goodness. Therefore we gladly join our voices to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven,



Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it and said, “This is my body, broken for you.”

Later he took a cup of wine and said, “This is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Take it, all of you, to remember me.”

Merciful God, send now in kindness your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. Let that same Spirit rest on us, converting us from the patterns of this world, until we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

By Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Holy God, throughout all the ages of ages.

AMEN.

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

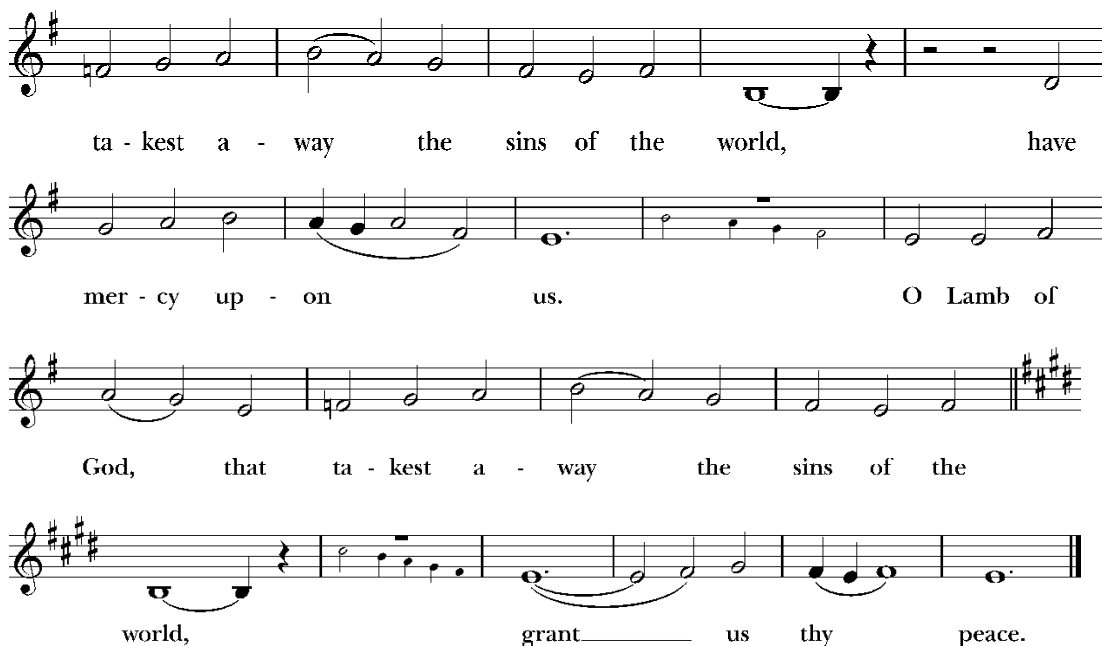
Our Father, who art in heaven, | hallowed be thy Name, | thy kingdom come, | thy will be done, | on earth as it is in heaven. | Give us this day our daily bread. | And forgive us our trespasses, | as we forgive those | who trespass against us. | And lead us not into temptation, | but deliver us from 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.

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). It contains a whole rest followed by a half note G, a quarter note A, a half note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, and a quarter note G. The lyrics "O Lamb of God," are aligned under the notes. The second staff continues with a half note A, a quarter note B, a half note C, a quarter note D, a half note E, a quarter note F#, a half note G, a quarter note A, a half note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, and a quarter note G. The lyrics "that ta - kest a -" are aligned under the notes. The third staff continues with a half note A, a quarter note B, a half note C, a quarter note D, a half note E, a quarter note F#, a half note G, a quarter note A, a half note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, and a quarter note G. The lyrics "way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -" are aligned under the notes. The fourth staff continues with a half note A, a quarter note B, a half note C, a quarter note D, a half note E, a quarter note F#, a half note G, a quarter note A, a half note B, a quarter note C, a half note D, a quarter note E, a half note F#, and a quarter note G. The lyrics "on us. O Lamb of God, that" are aligned under the notes.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that



Behold what you are.
May we become what we receive.

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.

Come to the center aisle and forward to receive the Bread. 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.

Having received the Bread then step to the left to receive the Wine from the Chalice or to the right to receive the Wine or Grape Juice from individual cups. Grape Juice is offered in the middle of the individual cups tray. Empty cups can be placed in the basket located on the windowsill on the right side of our worship space.

Communion Hymn 306

“Come risen Lord”

Sursum Corda

1 Come, ris - en Lord, and deign to be our guest;
 2 We meet, as in that up - per room they met;
 3 One bo - dy we, one Bo - dy who par - take,
 4 One with each o - ther, Lord, for one in thee,



nay, let us be thy guests; the feast is thine;
 thou at the ta - ble, bless - ing, yet dost stand;
 one Church u - ni - ted in com - mun - ion blest;
 who art one Sa - vior and one liv - ing Head;



thy - self at thine own board make man - i - fest
 “This is my Bo - dy”; so thou giv - est yet:
 one Name we bear, one Bread of life we break,
 then o - pen thou our eyes, that we may see;



in thine own Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.
 faith still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.
 with all thy saints on earth and saints at rest.
 be known to us in break - ing of the Bread.

***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**

May the wind of the Spirit startle your senses
and blow through your life;
may the fire of the Spirit scorch your complacency
and light your way.
And may the blessing of the Holy One—
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer—
rest with you now and forever more. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn 594** “God of grace and God of glory” *Cwm Rhondda*

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
 3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
 shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
 let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

***Dismissal**

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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*
Jo Gantzer, *Associate for Parish Ministry*
Martin Pazdioch, *Music Director*

Today's Service Leaders

Presider	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Preacher	Dr. René Schreiner
Crucifer	Sara Lewandowski
Chalice Minister	Dave Howley
Readers	Terry Petit Kathy Ponce
Intercessor	Ed Petit
Usher	Robbin Thompson
Altar Guild	Betty Bacula
Porter	Allison Newhouse
Pianist	John MacKey
Technical Production Team	Mike Krause