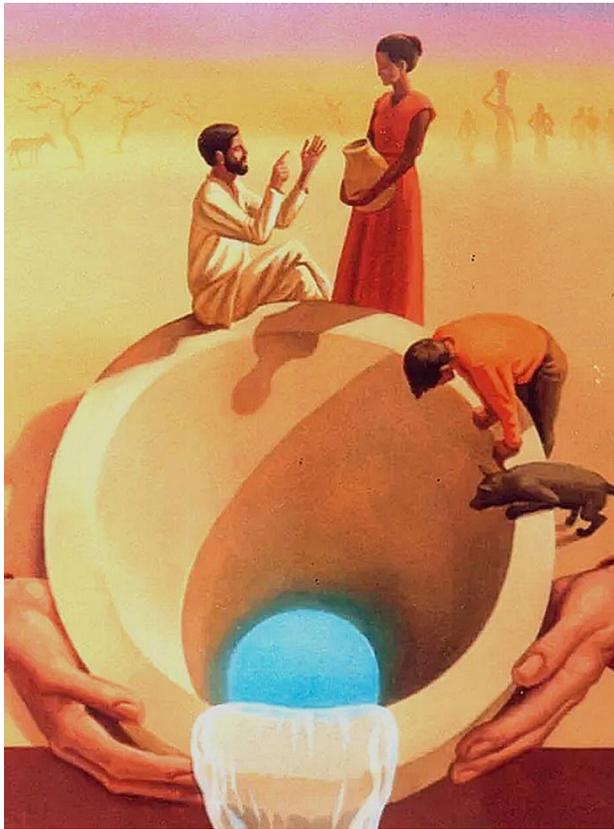
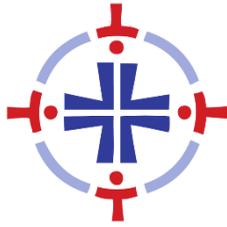




St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 8, 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 about to enter sacred time.

This is a place of rest and challenge,
of comfort and discomfort,
of many questions and few answers.
All are holy.

Jesus invites us to make this time and this place sacred by our presence and intention.

So I invite you, in these moments, to loosen the grip of those things that constrict your heart,

your fears
your anxieties
your regrets
and everything that would distract you

Be here, in this moment. Allow yourself to connect with the presence of God in the good people around you and to the Spirit within you.

It is Jesus who invites you, just as you are, and waits to receive you.

*Opening Hymn "Take up thy cross, the Savior said"



1. "Take up thy cross," the Sa - vior said, "if thou wouldst
2. Take up thy cross, let not_ its weight fill thy weak
3. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy
4. Take up thy cross, and fol - low Christ, nor think till



my__ di - sci - ple be; de - ny thy - self, the world for -
spi - rit with a - larm; His strength shall bear thy spi - rit
fool - ish pride re - bel; thy Lord for thee the cross en -
death to lay it down; for on - ly they who bear__ the



sake, and humb - ly fol - low af - ter Me."
up, and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.
dured, to save__ thy soul__ from death and hell.
cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

A Penitential Order

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we might receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:14, 16

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

**Most merciful God,
we are in prison, enslaved
in our fears, opinions, and habits
by what we have done,
and by what has been done to us.
We are not free to love you with our whole heart;
we are not free to love our neighbor or ourselves.
We live under the ever increasing burden of our taskmasters.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who proclaimed release to the captives,
free 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 us, release us, through our Lord Jesus Christ, from all that would entangle us, liberate us to live in true freedom, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Kyrie

S-95

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff has three measures. The first measure is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The second measure is labeled 'All' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The third measure is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy.'. The second staff has three measures. The first measure is labeled 'All' and contains the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy.'. The second measure is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The third measure is labeled 'All' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

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, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah

and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

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

Thanks be to God.

The Psalter

Psalm 95

Come, sing with joy to God,
shout to our savior, our rock.
Enter God’s presence with praise,
enter with shouting and song.

**A great God is the Lord,
over the gods like a king.
God cradles the depths of the earth,
holds fast the mountain peaks.
God shaped the ocean and owns it,
formed the earth by hand.**

Come, bow down and worship,
kneel to the lord our maker.
This is our God, our shepherd,
we are the flock led with care.

**Listen today to God’s voice:
“Harden no heart as at Meribah,
on that day in the desert at Massah.
There your people tried me,
though they had seen my work.**

“Forty years with that lot!
I said: They are perverse,
they do not accept my ways.
So I swore in my anger:
They shall not enter my rest.”

The Second Lesson

Romans 5:1-11

A reading from the letter to the church at Rome.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

The chant is sung several times before and after the gospel reading

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The musical score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the lyrics 'Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.' The second system contains the lyrics 'Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.' Both systems end with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The Holy Gospel

John 4:5-42

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor

Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper

is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children process out to Children's Story Time

The musical score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system has the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name." The second system has the lyrics: "Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

The Sermon

Jenny Hulen

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 ¹

*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 Mary Edith, Andrea, Jan, Megan and Ryan, Sunita, Jerry, Sandy, Judy, Maria, Ken and Sherry, Tim, Cheri and Nick, Grayson, James, Marc, Pat, Trish, Mary 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

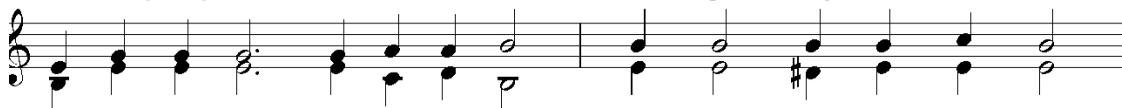
All those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries of any kind are invited to add their name to the chat on Zoom or feed on Facebook

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.

Engagement Opportunities

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

Offertory Hymn 692 "I heard the voice of Jesus say" *The Third Tune*



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



and in your wea - ri - ness lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop down and drink, and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun;

I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till pil - grim days are done.

*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

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 we had become slaves to disobedience you did not abandon us to live and die in bondage, 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.

A period of silence is kept.

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. 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.

*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. ²**

When members of the community are unable to attend the service, representatives of the people are sent with bread and wine to extend our communion with them.

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

The Solemn Prayer

Let us bow before the Lord.

The people kneel and the Presider says

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness we may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn - See Next Page**

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

*Closing Hymn “Lord Christ, when first you came to earth”



1 Lord Christ, when first you came to earth, up -
 2 O awe - some Love, which finds no room in
 3 New ad - vent of the love of Christ, will
 4 O wound - ed hands of Je - sus, build in



on a cross they bound you, and mocked your sav - ing
 life where sin de - nies you, and, doomed to death, shall
 we a - gain re - fuse you, till in the night of
 us your new cre - a - tion; our pride is dust, our



king - ship's worth by thorns with which they crowned you. And
 bring to doom the pow'r that cru - ci - fies you, till
 hate and war we per - ish as we lose you? From
 vault is stilled; we wait your rev - e - la - tion. O



still our wrongs may fash - ion now new thorns to pierce that
 not a stone is left on stone, and then the na - tions'
 an - cient doubts our minds re - lease to seek the king - dom
 Love that tri - umphs o - ver loss, we bring our hearts be -



stead - y brow, and robe of sor - row round you.
 pride, o'er - thrown, will nev - er - more de - fy you!
 of your peace, by which a - lone we choose you.
 fore your cross; come, fin - ish your sal - va - tion.

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

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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 & Preacher	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Crucifer	Sara Lewandowski
Chalice Minister	René Schreiner
Readers	Michael Medsker
	Maria Whelan
Intercessor	Marlene Casiano
Ushers	Barb Drummond
	Robbin Thompson
Altar Guild	Maura Howley
Porter	Myk Snider
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	Brian Kuczynski