St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 29, 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.

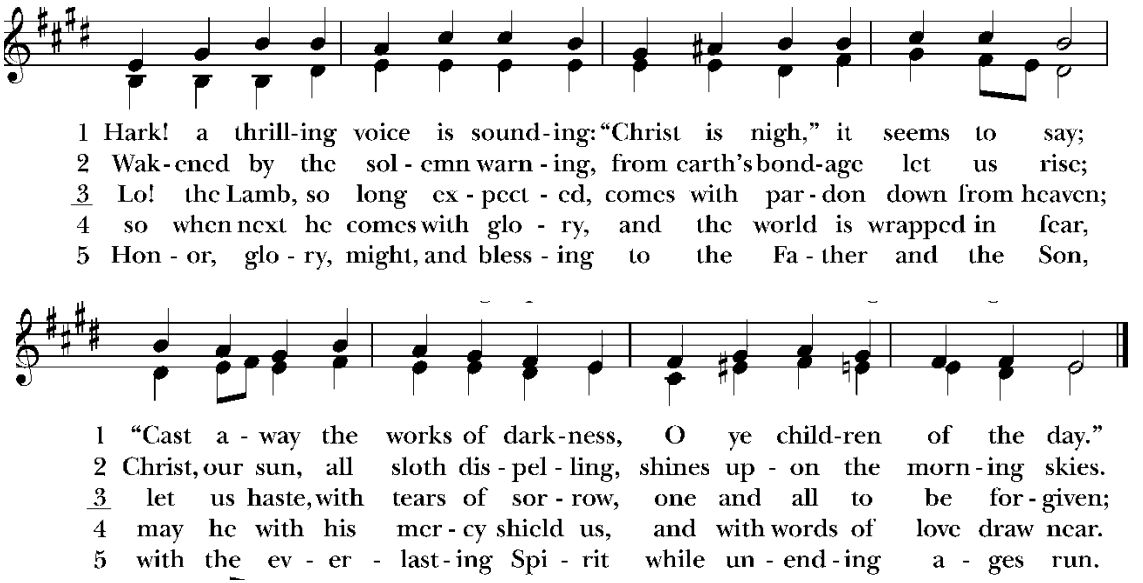
The Holy Eucharist

** Indicates the assembly stands, if able.*
*All portions of the service in **Bold** are spoken by the assembly.*
Please silence your cell phone.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

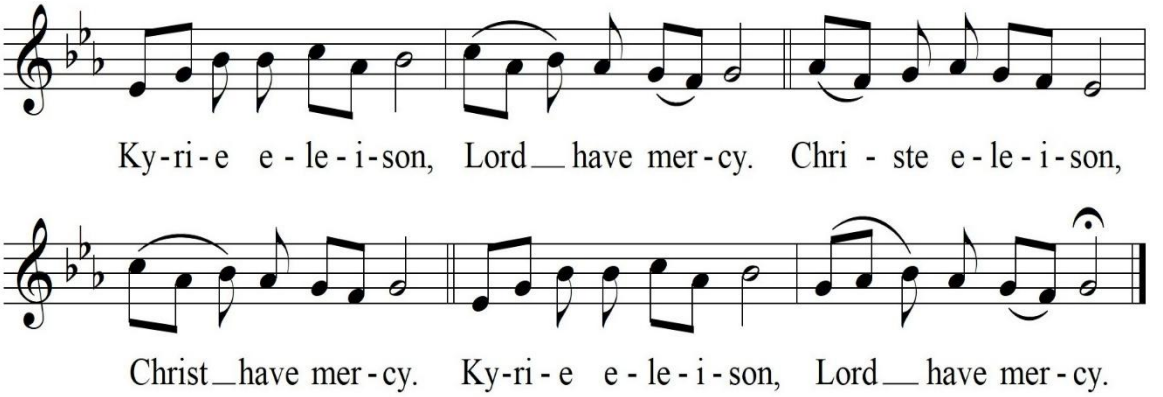
*Opening Hymn H 59 "Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding" *Merton*



Blessed are you Holy and Living one.
You come to set your people free.

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

The Kyrie



The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

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

The Lessons *The Assembly is seated*

The First Lesson Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

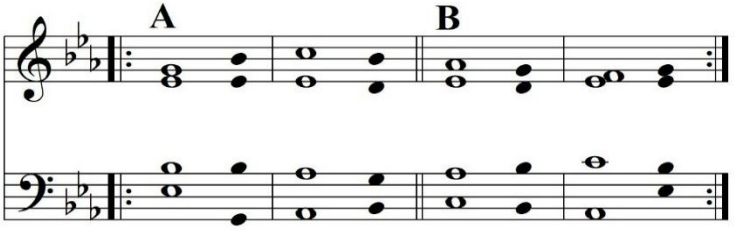
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

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

The Psalter

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18



A Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
leader of Joseph's flock.
B From your throne on the cherubim
shine out for Ephraim, for Benjamin and Ma-nas-seh.

A Restore to us, God, the light of your presence,
and we shall be saved.
B How long, Lord God of might,
will you smoulder with rage, despite our prayers?

A For bread you feed us tears,
we drink them by the barrel.
B You let our neighbors mock,
our enemies scorn us.

A Gather your strength, come, save us!
Restore to us, God of might,
B the light of your presence,
and we shall be saved.

A Rest your hand upon your chosen one
who draws strength from you.
B We have not turned from you.
Give us life again and we will invoke your name.

A Restore to us, Lord
God of might,
B the light of your presence,
and we shall be saved.

The Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter to the Corinthians.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

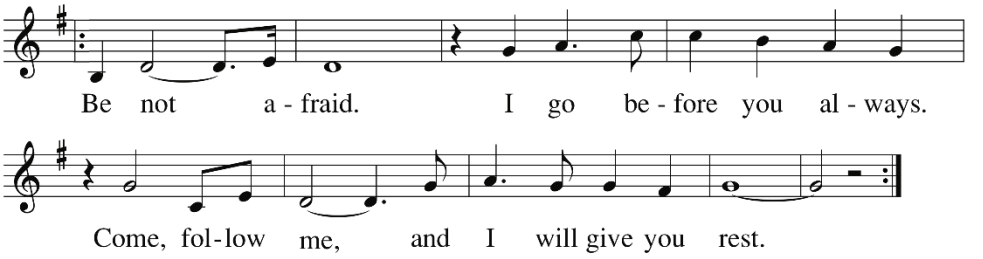
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

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

*The Gospel Procession

All join in singing both before and after the gospel.

2 times through, before and after the Gospel



*The Holy Gospel Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Myk Snider

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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.
Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.
Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.
Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.
Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.
Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.
Silence
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Give us ears to hear, O God,
and eyes to watch,
that we may know your presence in our midst
as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

Silence is 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.

We know that pain cannot be un-made, that life cannot be un-lived, that time will not run backward, and we cannot un-choose our choices. But through Jesus, God has promised that we can be forgiven, our pain can be healed, our choices can be redeemed, our lives can be blessed, and love can bring us home. God cover you with forgiving love and bring you home, in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer.[1] **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 saintsimons*

Offertory Anthem Earth Was Waiting

Sung by St. Simon's Choir

My Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
With a mingled hope and fear;
And the faithful few were sighing,
"Surely, the day is near;
The desire of all the nations,
It is time he should appear."

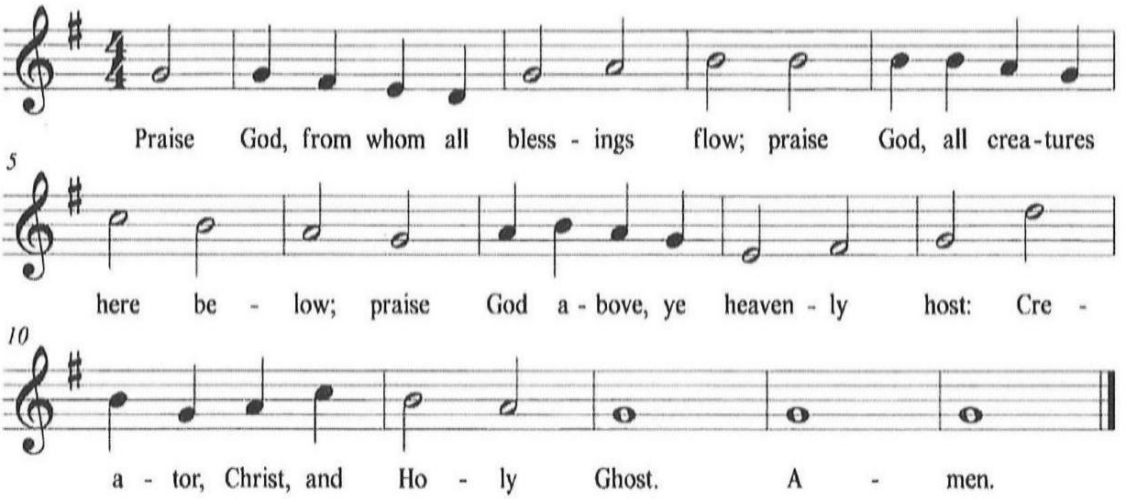
Still the gods were in their temples,
But the ancient faith had fled;
And the priests stood by their altars
Only for a piece of bread;
And the oracles were silent,
And the prophets all were dead.

Then the Spirit of the highest
On a virgin meek came down,
And he burdened her with blessing,
And he pained her with renown;
For she bore the Lord's anointed
For his cross and for his crown.

Earth for him had groaned and travailed
Since the ages first began;
For in him was hid the secret
That through all the ages ran —
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.

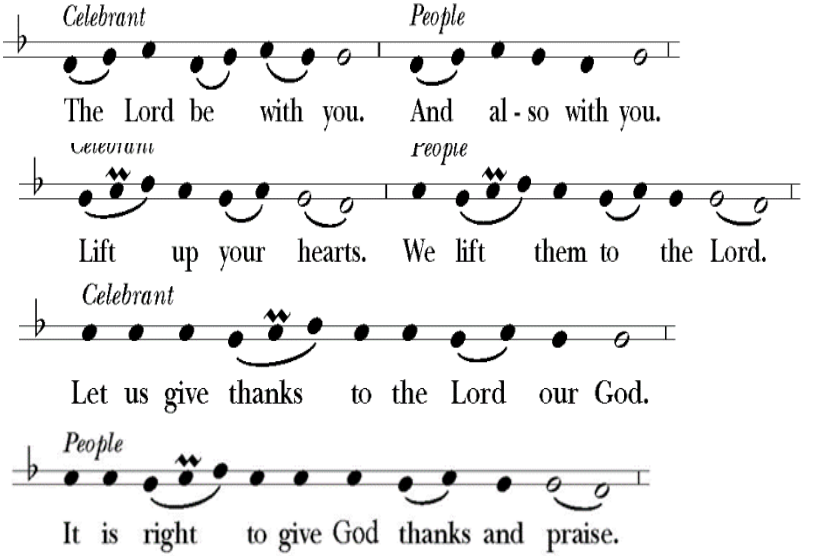
Text: W. C. Smith, Music: Ronald Turner

*Presentation of the Gifts



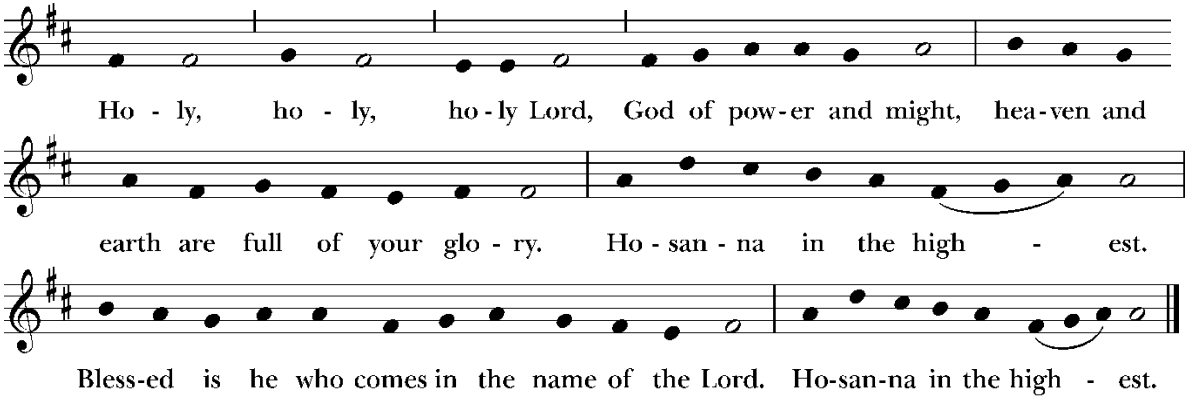
*The Great Thanksgiving

BCP Form B



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name: **S 124**



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."

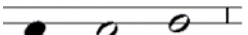
Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

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.



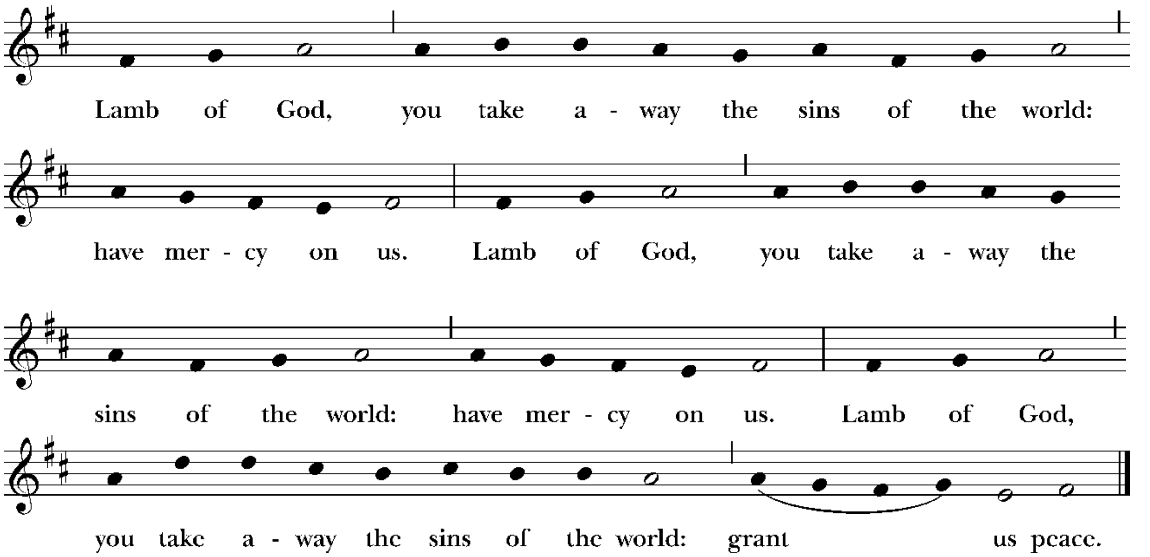
And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

S 161



A period of silence is kept.

The Gifts of God freely given for all.

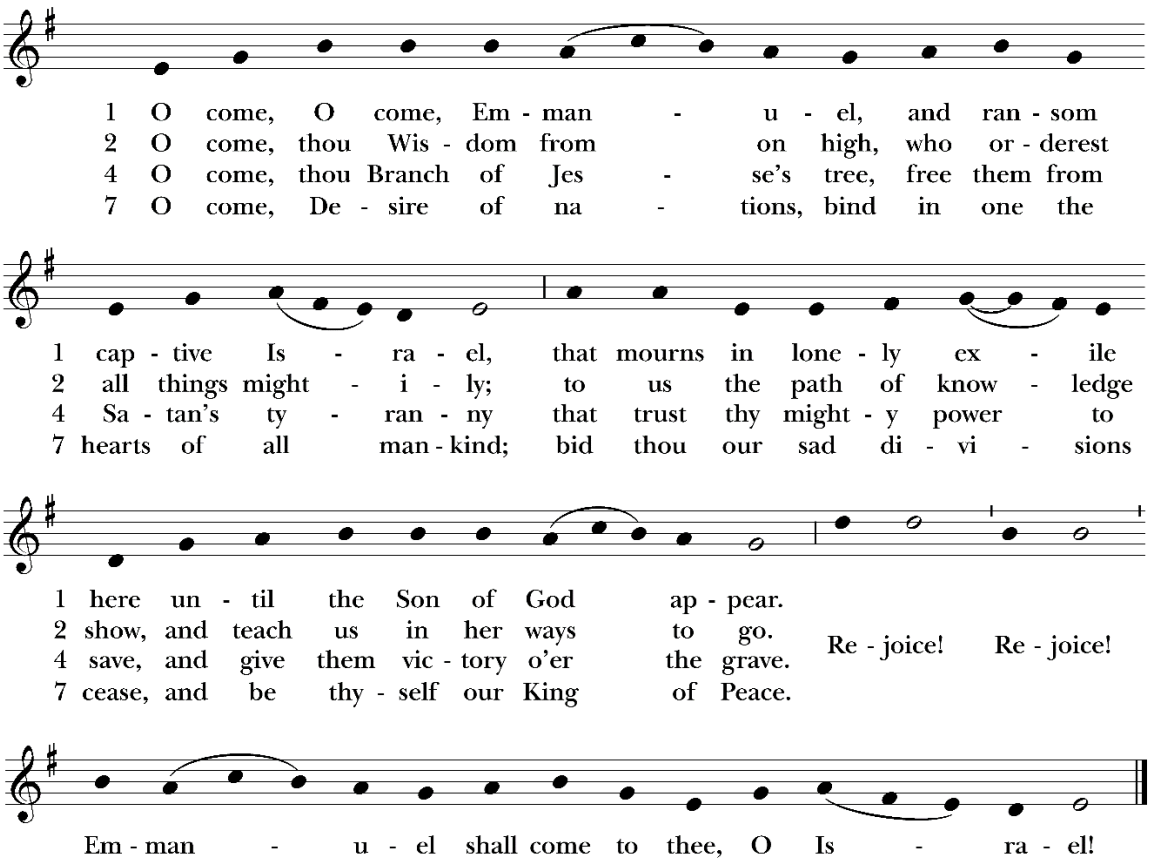
The Presider and those worshipping online consume the host together with these words:
The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Everyone has a place at God's table and all are invited to share in communion.

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.

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.

Communion Hymn H 56 "O Come, O Come" *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*



*Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

O Holy One,
for whom we wait,
we have been guests at your table,
sustained by your word and sacrament.
Summon out in us,
whom you have fed,
generosity of spirit,
to ensure that all the hungry are nourished,
the vulnerable are protected,
and earth's barren places are fertile with
faith, hope, and love.
This we ask through Christ our brother,
with the aid of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

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

*The Blessing

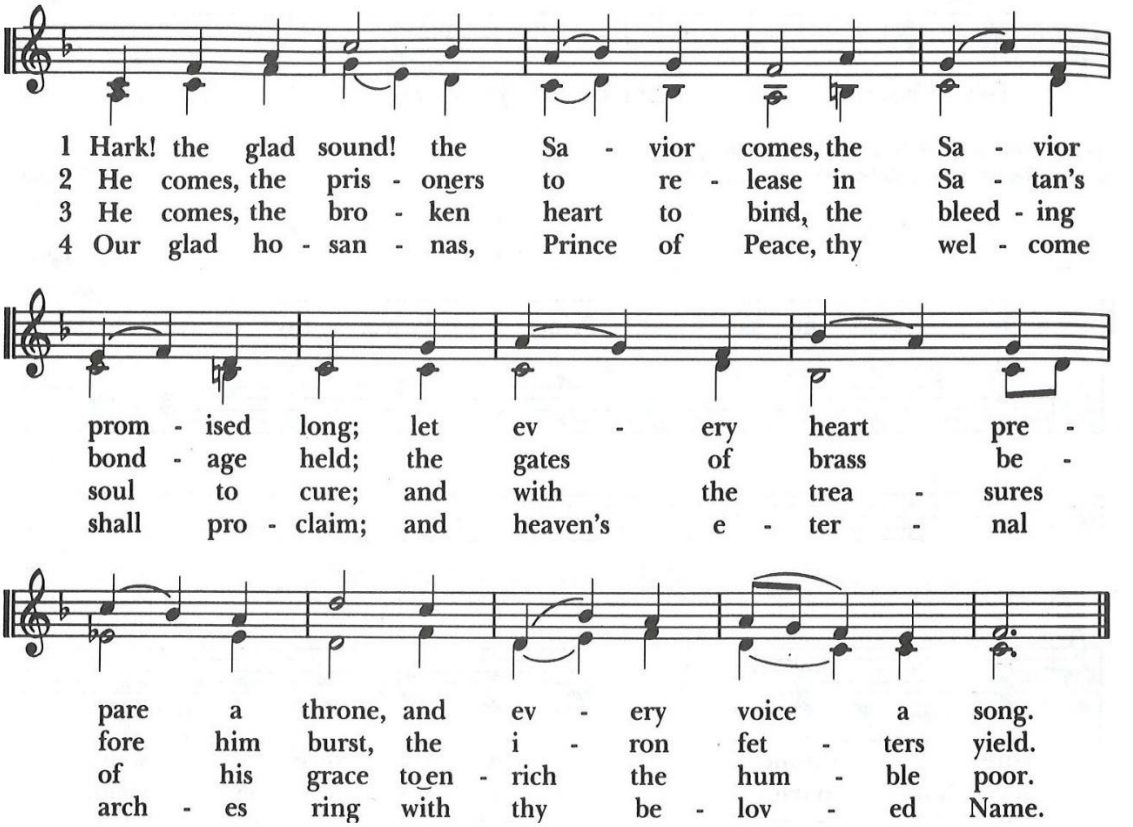
May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. Amen.

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn **H 72** "Hark the glad sound" *Richmond*



Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

LIVE-STREAM NOTICE
A reminder, this public service will be live-streamed and your image or the image of any children or vulnerable adults in your care may appear in the video. By your entry and presence in this service, you agree on behalf of yourself and any children or vulnerable adults attending with you to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and also agree to our use of such images in any and all media.

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St. Simon's Episcopal Church

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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*
Annette McClain, *Office Manager*

Today's Service Leaders

Presider	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Preacher	Myk Snider
Crucifer	Dave Howley
Chalice Minister	Karen Waechter
Readers	René Schreiner
	Caryl Medsker
Intercessor	Kathy Ponce
Ushers	Rachel Jarosik
	Barb Drummond
Altar Guild	Maura Howley
Porter	Allison Newhouse
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	David Romanowski