



ST. SIMON'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
November 19, 2023 – 9:30 AM



THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY “Morning Prayer”

Lawson Briggs

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “O God our help in ages past”

Hymnal 689
Tune: *St. Anne*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Book of Common Prayer 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Judges 4:1-7 | Pew Bible 218

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM *(Chanted by all)*

Psalm 123



To you I lift up my | eyes, *
to you enthroned in the | heavens.
As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their | masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her | mistress,
So our eyes look to the Lord our | God, *
until he show us his | mercy.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have | mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of con- | tempt,
Too much of the scorn of the indolent | rich, *
and of the derision of the | proud.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 | Pew Bible 1347

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN “On Jordan’s stormy banks I stand”

LEVAS 9
Tune: *Promised Land*

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

A time of silence follows the sermon.

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.

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city Conyers, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Simon and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

ABSOLUTION

PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN “O God, we yearn for safety”

Text: Carolyn Wynfrey Gillette
Tune: *Aurellia*

1. O God, we yearn for safety; We long to be secure.
Yet faithful, loving service Is what you value more.
You give us what is needed; You love, forgive and save.
Then, sending us to serve you, You call us to be brave.

2. You give to some ten talents — to others, two or three;
To some you give one blessing To manage faithfully.
For you, O Lord, are loving And don't demand success;
You daily call your people To lives of faithfulness.

3. You give your church the gospel — Good news for us to share.
You give us great compassion For neighbors everywhere.
You give us skills to serve you And loving work to do.
We're blest to be a blessing, And called to risk for you.

O God, it seems much safer To live from day to day,
Protecting what you lend us And hiding it away.
Yet all these gifts can't flourish When hidden in the ground;
When we are brave to share them Your blessings will abound.

PRESENTATION HYMN “With voices united”

Tune: *Kremser*

With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer and glad - ly our
songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise. With you, Lord, be - side us, your
strong arm will guide us. To you, our great Re - deem - er, for ev - er be praise!

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A | BCP 361

SANCTUS “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Hymnal S-129

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

FRACTION ANTHEM “Lamb of God”

Hymnal S-163

INVITATION

BCP 364

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION HYMN “Once he came in blessing”

Hymnal 53
Tune: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

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.

BLESSING

HYMN “Stand up, stand up for Jesus”

Hymnal 561

Tune: *Morning Light*

DISMISSAL

BCP 366

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Celebratory March”

Caleb Semper

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NEWS AND INFORMATION

Week of November 19, 2023

Compline On-Line

Our midweek Compline service will not take place on November 22. We will resume on November 29.

Time to Connect

St. Simon's Connecting Group will start having monthly meetings on the first Sunday of the month after the 9:30 a.m. service. If you are interested in connecting more deeply to St. Simon's or helping others connect more deeply, join us for our next meeting on Dec. 3. If you have questions, please talk with Joan Nwasike.

Christmas Lunch

St. Simon's Connecting Group will be hosting a lunch for the church on Sunday, December 10 after the service. Please make plans to attend.

Community Needs Food

Rockdale Emergency Relief has asked St. Simon's to help fill its shelves in the weeks ahead. In particular, the food bank has asked for crackers, jelly, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, Bisquick, pancake mixes, muffin mixes, soup chili, beef stew, dog food, cat food, laundry detergent and dish soap.

Time for a Challenging Book

St. Simon's book group is currently reading *Humbler Faith Bigger God: Finding a Story to Live By*, written by Samuel Wells, the vicar of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. The book addresses such timeless issues as "why is there suffering." We will not meet on November 22, but will resume on November 29. Join us on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 in the parish hall for a thought provoking discussion.

September YTD Financial Snapshot

The Vestry approved St. Simon's September 2023 Financial Report at its October 15 monthly meeting. The following is a snapshot of that report showing our year-to-date operations through September 2023.

Year to date receipts: \$141,713

Year to date expenses: \$147,656

Net (\$5,943)

As of September 30, our pledge receipts were behind by \$6,717. If we all become current on our pledges, our financial situation will improve dramatically. If you can increase your giving in the months ahead, our situation will improve as well.

Need Numbers People to Help

St. Simon's needs some people who are good with numbers to assist with our counting on Sundays and our accounting process. We are also looking for an assistant treasurer to assist our long-time treasurer, Lillie Nesbit. Please talk with Gale Thomas-Jones if you can help.

Pastoral Concerns

If you have a pastoral emergency, are in the hospital, or have any concern you want to bring to the attention of the church, please call Jane directly on her cell phone at 404-973-4465.

Please send prayer requests or church announcements to parishadmin@stsimonsconyers.org, or call the parish office at 770-483-3242.

PRAYER LIST

We pray for those who have died: Susan Collins.

We pray for those with short-term concerns: John Boswell and Dot Rascoe.

We pray for those with long-term concerns: Angela Andries, Dona Bopp, Leone David, Barbie Dorow, Ernest Essue, Gerry Fosnot, Violet Gittens, Elizabeth Hart, Donald Hopwah, Olivia Johnson, Albert Jones, Gale Thomas-Jones, Olive Perry, Rachel Price, Leonard Tyndall, and the Zimmer-Dauphinee family.

ST. SIMON'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop of Atlanta

The Rev. Jane Mitchell Weston, Priest-in-Charge

jweston@stsimonsconyers.org

The Rev. Terry R. Howell, Deacon

Tim Young, Parish Musician

Kathy Ethridge, Parish Administrator

Hallie Sway, Bookkeeper

Amanda Vaughn, Communications

ST. SIMON'S VESTRY

Greta Ann Hurst, Senior Warden

Garry Bopp, Junior Warden

Class of 2023

Garry Bopp

Gale Thomas-Jones

Charmaine Pollydore

Class of 2024

Bob DiVito

Greta Ann Hurst

Leslie Lambert

Class of 2025

Marva Duncan

Joan Nwasike

Bill Thomas

Valerie Hamm, Clerk of Vestry

Lillie Nesbit, Treasurer