THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 24, 2020



OUR MISSION

To bring by the power of the Holy Spirit as many people as possible to know, love, and serve God as revealed through Jesus Christ; and to be transformed into spiritually renewed disciples of Jesus who know, love and serve one another and the world.



FROM THE RECTOR

IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, WELCOME.

Jesus' first words to His earliest disciples were very simple, "Come, follow Me..." (Matthew 4:19) It was a gentle invitation to take seriously the wonderful journey of faith found in Christ. For more than 2,000 years, people of all ages have responded to that invitation through a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ in a community of prayer, study and service. St. Martin's is just such a place.

St. Martin's is a member Church in the Diocese of Texas, The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the greater worldwide Anglican Communion consisting of more than 77 million people. Our Parish Church considers it a tremendous honor to be a place where men, women, youth and children can grow in their personal relationship with our Lord, come to know and use their own spiritual gifts, and discover a personal ministry to be expressed both in the Church, the greater Houston area and beyond.

I want to personally invite you to participate in our worship services and as many of our activities and ministries as your own commitments and time will allow.

Gener J. Luna, Jr. +

The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr., Rector

Prayers Before Worship

O Lord, we thank You that You have called us as members of Your family into this beautiful house of God. Grant that here we may feel Your presence and the beauty of Your peace, and that, as we return to our homes and work, we may sense Your guiding hand and loving care and be used in the service of our neighbors, our nation and the world, and all You send our way, through Him Who came not to condemn the world but to save it, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your provision for our church family, especially the resources we need to expand and develop our church campus in order to further the work of Your Gospel in this place. Give us strength and grace as the construction takes place, that it would go as You will, for Your purposes and Your kingdom. Bless and keep safe all those who labor on our behalf. All this we ask through the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

VOLUNTARY"Almighty Father" arr. James Mansfield

Dr. David Henning, Director of Music and Parish Organist

Begin on page 323 of The Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP page 226)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

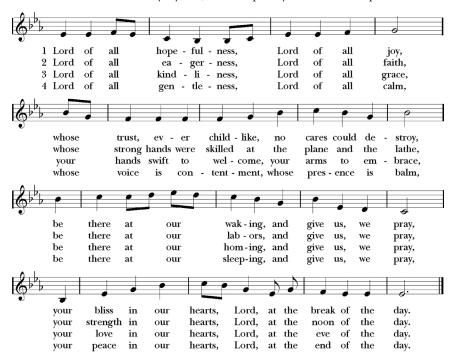


Words: Francis Scott Key (1779-1843); Music: National Anthem, source unknown, ca. 18th cent.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God[a] have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God.

HYMN 482 (vs. 1, 3 and 4) "Lord of all Hopefulness" Tom and Haley Lynch, Contemporary Music Worship



Words: Jan Struther (1901–1953); Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. *Hymnal* 1982; Copyright: Words: By permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL......John 17:20–26

Jesus said, "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

HYMN 529 (all verses)

"In Christ There is No East or West"

Annamarie Zmolek and Patrick Perez, St. Martin's Parish Choir



Words: John Oxenham (1852–1941), alt.; Music: *McKee*, Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and harm. Harry T. Burleigh (1866–1949); Copyright: Words: Reprinted by permission of The American Tract Society, Garland, Texas. Music: Copyright © 1940, Henry T. Burleigh. Used by permission of the Estate of Henry T. Burleigh.

THE NICENE CREED (BCP page 327)

Celebrant and People

I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father;

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation

came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the

Virgin Mary,

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried;

and the third day he rose again according to

the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of the Father,

and he shall come again, with glory,

to judge both the quick and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,

who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together

is worshiped

and glorified;

who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church;

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;

and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP page 387, Form III)

Minister and People pray responsively Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve thee;

That thy Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for our Anglican Communion; for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin; for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; for our Bishops, Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector; for all bishops, priests and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of thy Word and Sacraments.

We pray for 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 thy will in all that we undertake; That our works may find favor in thy sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest; Let light perpetual shine upon them. We praise thee for thy saints who have entered into joy; May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

For Donald, our President, the Congress and the Courts; for all who serve in our armed forces and their families; we pray for peace throughout the world, and especially in the Middle East; and we pray for the victims of terror attacks; and we remember before you, and pray for the protection of our Christian brothers and sisters who face danger or persecution for their faith; and we pray for victims of all natural disasters; For the many people who have contracted the coronavirus; for comfort for those grieving loved ones who have died and peace for those who are fearful as the virus spreads, for those in isolation, those who have lost their job or their business, for parents who find themselves trying to home school their children, and for all those in our communities involved in ministering to the sick, especially for all health care workers; We pray for the safety of all law enforcement agents, firefighters, paramedics and all first responders who provide security and protection to the citizens they serve, and we pray for those in the hospitals __; and those for whom our prayers have been requested__; and for those on our Continuing Prayer List; and for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers,____; and we remember before you the departed especially_____; we give thanks for their lives and pray for their loved ones left behind.

I invite your own prayers and intercessions.

A period of silence, during which people may add their own petitions quietly or in the privacy of their hearts.

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect (BCP page 394)

Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Minister and People (BCP page 331)

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Priest stands and says (BCP page 332)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(A Word of Thanks to the Rev. Ken Fields



It was with a huge measure of mixed feelings a few weeks ago that I received the resignation of the Rev. Ken Fields, our Staff Chaplain. Ken came back to us last year during a time of transition and he has been a great mentor to our staff, particularly to those new to our ranks. Through moves, temporary offices and physical challenges associated with the Building for the Ages Campaign, Ken brought a measure of steady calm and prayerful presence to everyone on our staff. It has been a wonderful pleasure having him back for a good season, but Ken said, for a

number of reasons, he really is ready to retire "this time." (As he has retired a few times before this retirement!)

You will recall, Ken was our second longest serving Vice Rector when he retired in 2012. (Now the Rev. Marty Bastian has served in that role the longest.) As Vice Rector, he oversaw the staff, worship and stewardship ministries of the Parish. He was a great help to me, and has continued to be a great adviser, counselor and prayer partner to all of us on staff.

After his ordination, he first served as Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama Ken then served as the Deputy for Communications and Clergy Development in the Diocesan offices and later as Chaplain and Rector of Canterbury Chapel at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. He has been tremendously helpful in the Diocese of Texas, having served in various roles for parishes in transition or in need of his particular and unique set of gifts.

In addition to his parish duties, Ken has served as a trustee of the Episcopal Foundation, member of the Diocesan Council management team, and coordinator for ordinations and other diocesan liturgies. Ken and his wife, Mary Alice, who sings in our choir, look forward to this new season of life and having more time to spend with their daughter and two grandsons, who live here with them in Katy.

We will miss Ken, but as he said, "I'll be around!" So we will see him from time to time. I know you join the Vestry, Clergy and staff of St. Martin's in offering our profound gratitude for a job well done at a time most needed!

Faithfully,

The Rev. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

June J. Luna, J. +





We may not be able to meet in person right now, but we want to know if you are sick, hospitalized or need to speak with a member of the Clergy.

Prayer Requests

Contact the Prayer Request Line at 713-830-4124 or Deb Tisch at 713-985-3817 or dtisch@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

After Hours Emergencies

Call 713-621-3040 and press 2 to reach the Priest on Call. Please leave your name, phone number and a brief message.

Death Notifications and Funerals

Contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or censign@stmartinsepiscopal.org.





THE OFFERTORY

HYMN 214 (vs. 1 and 4)....."Hail the Day" Annamarie Zmolek and Patrick Perez, St. Martin's Parish Choir



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.; Music: Llanfair, Robert Williams (1781-1821).

AT THE PRESENTATION

DOXOLOGY Easter Hymn



Words: Latin, 14th cent.; tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt. St. 4, Charles Wesley.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP page 336)

Celebrant and People

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.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

THE EASTER BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

HYMN 579 (vs. 1 and 4)....."Almighty Father" Annamarie Zmolek and Patrick Perez, St. Martin's Parish Choir



Words: Sts. 1 and 4, William Whiting (1825–1878), alt.; sts. 2–3, Robert Nelson Spencer (1877–1961), alt.; Music: *Melita*, John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876).

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Dr. David Henning, Director of Music and Parish Organist

OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

Vestry Executive Committee

Mr. JimHibbert, Senior Warden

Mr. Titus Harris III, Junior Warden

Mrs. Anya McInnis, Missions Chair

Mr. Matt Anderson. Treasurer

Mrs. Diane Campbell, Clerk

Mr. Culver Stedman, Past Senior Warden

Mr. Andy Harvin, Chancellor*

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Mr. Tommy Ford

Mrs. Whitney Gormley

Mrs. Casey Hedges

Mr. Matt Mogas

Mr. Robert Paddock

Mr. Bob Parkey

Mr. Gib Surles

The Hon. John Wooldridge

Associate Members

The Hon. James A. Baker, III, Special Counsel to the Vestry*

Mr. Dale Cheesman III,

Special Counsel to the Vestry*

Mr. George Francisco IV,

Special Counsel to the Vestry*

Mr. Bill Chiles, Senior Council

Mr. Bob Heston, Jr.,

Special Counsel to the Vestry*

Mr. Bill Chiles, Senior Council

Representative 2019–2020

Mrs. Flo McGee, Senior Council Representative 2019–2020

Mrs. Susan Peterson, Altar Guild President 2019–2020

Mrs. Hope Huber, ECW President 2019–2020

Mr. Joe Lopez, Men of St. Martin's President 2019–2021

Mr. Ryan LaRue, *Usher Representative* 2018–2020

*Chancellor and Special Counsel are associate positions, filled at the discretion of the Rector.

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ *The Head of This Church*



The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. *Rector*lhough@stmartinsepiscopal.org



The Rev. Martin J. Bastian *Vice-Rector*<u>mbastian@stmartinsepiscopal.org</u>



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