

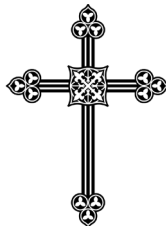
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 12, 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.



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

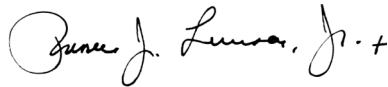
FROM THE RECTOR

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.



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 “Nun Bitten Wir”

Dietrich Buxtehude

Mr. Kevin Riehle, Choral Director of Adult Choir

All stand.

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

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

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

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 231)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. *(kneel)*

The Celebrant says the Collect

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

HYMN 632 (vs. 1 and 3)..“O Christ, the Word Incarnate”
*Jan Cornelius LeClair, Brennan Blankenship, Jeff Ragsdale, Ben LeClair,
 St. Martin's Parish Choir*

1 O Christ, the Word In - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The Church from our dear Mas - ter re - ceived the word di - vine,
 3 O make thy Church, dear Sa - vior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions thy true light as of old;

we praise thee for the ra - dian - ce that from the scrip - ture's page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that o'er life's surg - ing sea,
 O teach thy wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see thee face to face.

Words: William Walsham How (1823–1897), alt.; Music: *Munich*, melody from *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch. Gottseligkeit eingerichtetes Meinigisches Gesangbuch*, 1693; adapt. and harm. Felix Mendelssohn (1807–1847).

THE LESSON Psalm 119:105–112

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path. I have sworn and am determined to keep your righteous judgments. I am deeply troubled; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word. Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, and teach me your judgments. My life is always in my hand, yet I do not forget your law. The wicked have set a trap for me, but I have not strayed from your commandments. Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; truly, they are the joy of my heart. I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes for ever and to the end.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 440 (vs. 1 and 3)..... "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"

1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
 2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
 3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -

hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
 shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
 ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,

now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
 with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
 help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy

pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
 God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
 Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Words: Tobias Clausnitzer (1619–1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829–1878); alt. Music: *Liebster Jesu*, melody Johann Rudolph Ahle (1625–1673); alt. *Das grosse Cantional: oder Kirchen-Gesangbuch*, 1687; harm. George Herbert Palmer (1846–1926).

All stand.

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

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

THE GOSPELMatthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

HYMN (all verses)..... “Thy Word”



Thy Word is a lamp un-to___ my feet and a light un-to my path.



Thy Word is a lamp un-to___ my feet and a light un-to my path.



1. When I feel___ a - fraid, and I think I've lost___ my way, ' still You're there right be -
 2. I will not___ for - get Your___ love for me,___ and yet my heart for - ev - er is



side___ me. Noth - ing will___ I fear as___ long as You___ are near.
 wan - der - ing. Je - sus, be___ my guide and___ hold me to___ Your side;



Please be near me to the end. _____
 I will love You to the end. _____

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THE SERMON ...“What it Means to be the Good Soil”

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

THE NICENE CREED (*BCP page 327*) (*stand*)

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*) (*kneel*)

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, Greg, our Governor, Sylvester, our Mayor and 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, 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.**

T H E P E A C E *(stand)*

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

People: **And with thy spirit.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WAYS TO GIVE



TEXT TO GIVE

Text SMEC to 73256



ONLINE

smartinsepiscopal.org/giving



MAIL

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ESTATE PLANNING

Contact: Director of Parish Stewardship, Ashley Pratka:
apratka@smartinsepiscopal.org or 346-335-8658



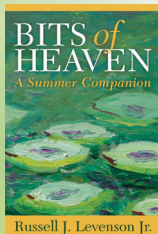
TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Pledging and setting up a recurring gift online helps you and the church budget.
Go online today: smartinsepiscopal.org/giving

Please contact Accounting Supervisor, Debbie Hutchison
with questions or for assistance:
dhutchison@smartinsepiscopal.org or 713-985-3803

NEW BOOK BY THE REV. DR. RUSSELL J. LEVENSON JR.

A portion of proceeds goes to support Outreach Ministries at St. Martin's



Bits of Heaven A Summer Companion

\$16.95 | 9781640652712

"In this wonderful, refreshing, and powerful book, an experienced Rector holds your hand and takes you through the eternal truths that can shape and enhance a life. With humor and anecdote, he helps you understand the gift of faith. As you plan your summer, this is a must read addition. With this book, Russ Levenson is becoming the finest writer of devotional texts in the Episcopal Church today."

– *The Very Reverend Ian Markham, Dean and President of Virginia Theological Seminary*

"The traditional Anglican term for the days and weeks of summer is 'Ordinary Time,' but this small but potent book is anything but. It is an extraordinary gift to all of us from Russ Levenson, priest and pastor."

– *Jon Meacham, Former Editor and Chief of Newsweek and Executive Editor and Executive Vice President of Random House*

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020



**Monday–Thursday,
July 27–30**

**Registration
not required.**

St. Martin's is teaming up with St. John the Divine and Christ Church Cathedral to offer a free, online VBS that will be open to everyone in the Diocese July 27-30.

Families who registered for the original program will receive kits containing inexpensive materials for crafts and lessons to use at home before the program starts.

Christian Community Service Center

BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Just \$50 provides an underserved child with a uniform, shoes and school supplies.

How to Use Text to Give

Our text-to-give system is easy to use. Simply text SMEC to 73256. You will be prompted to enter your chosen contribution amount and then select CCSC in the drop-down menu. You will also enter your credit card number. This is a secure mobile giving site. A confirmation text is sent immediately to your phone with a receipt number.

Other options:

If you would like to donate through the online website, visit stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving-to-outreach

If you prefer to mail a check, please address the check to St. Martin's Episcopal Church and note in the memo area "CCSC Back to School." You can mail it to St. Martin's, Attn: CCSC BTS.

For more information, contact Outreach Ministries at 713-985-3811 or outreach@stmartinsepiscopal.org.

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL Christian Life Study

CLS is a group of more than 300 women studying the Bible. We are committed to growing spiritually by seeking God and studying His Word.

Please register now at clsbiblestudy.com for the Day or Evening Bible study groups that begin in September and run through April.

DAY GROUP

Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:20 a.m.

Studies include 1 & 2 Thessalonians and James both by N.T. Wright, and Worship the King by Teddy Heard Orr.

EVENING GROUP - NOTE NEW DAY!

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Studies include Hebrews, James and 1 & 2 Timothy.

ST. MARTIN'S
IS HERE FOR YOU!
WE MISS YOU!
GOD LOVES YOU!

*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.
Don't hesitate to call the church*

General Questions

Contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040.

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.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERTORY

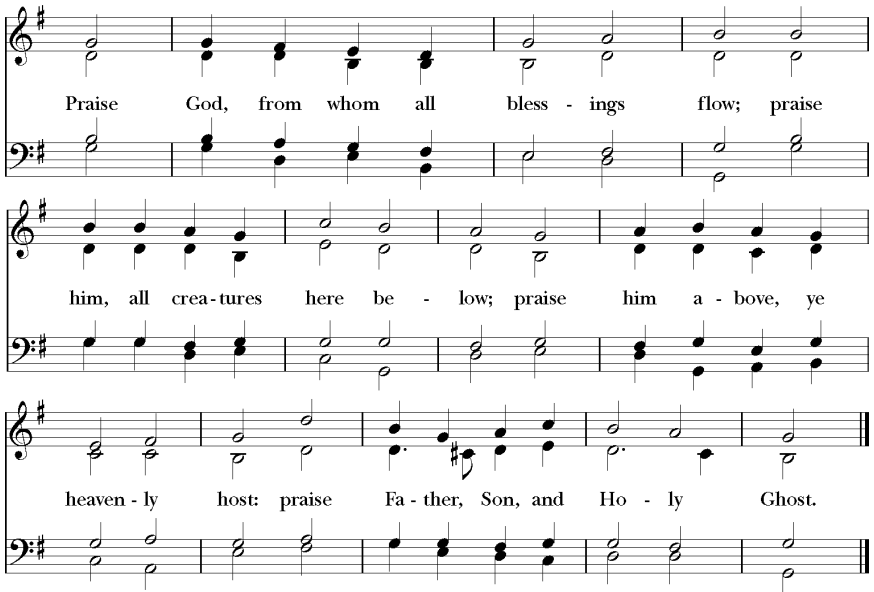
ANTHEM “If Ye Love Me”
Thomas Tallis

If ye love Me, keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever. Ev’n the Spirit of truth, that He may abide with you forever.

Text: John 14: 15-17. © HW Gray.

AT THE PRESENTATION

DOXOLOGY *Old 100th*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637–1711); Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray. (*kneel*)

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 BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

HYMN 657 (vs. 1 and 3)..“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788); Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811–1887).

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

SERMON NOTES

OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

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Mr. Titus Harris III, *Junior Warden*

Mrs. Anya McInnis, *Missions Chair*

Mr. Matt Anderson, *Treasurer*

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

Mr. Ryan LaRue, *Usher Representative 2018–2021*

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

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ
The Head of This Church



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FOR REFERENCE.

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