

# THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

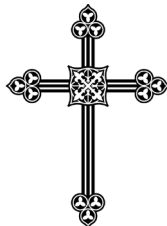
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*July 26, 2020*



## 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

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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

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VOLUNTARY ..... “Choral Song”

S.S. Wesley

*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)*

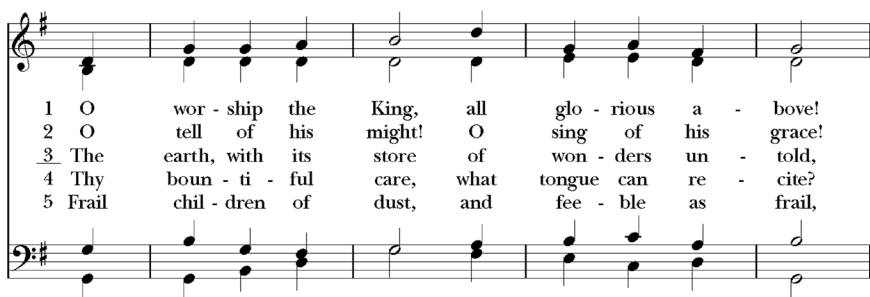
*The Celebrant says the Collect*

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# HYMN 388 (vs. 1 and 5).....“O Worship the King”

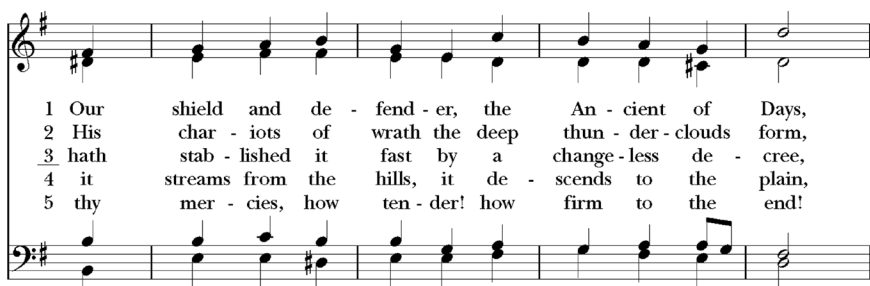
*Brennan Blankenship and Jeff Ragsdale, St. Martin's Parish Choir*



1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!  
 2 O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!  
 3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,  
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?  
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,



1 O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love!  
 2 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space.  
 3 Al - might - y, thy power hath found - ed of old,  
 4 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
 5 in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;



1 Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 2 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,  
 3 hath stab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 4 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,  
 5 thy mer - cies, how ten - der! how firm to the end!



1 pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.  
 2 and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.  
 3 and round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 4 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 5 Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

Words: Robert Grant (1779–1838); Music: *Hanover*, att. William Croft (1678–1727).

## THE LESSON .....Romans 8:26–39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Reader:**           The Word of the Lord.

**People:**           Thanks be to God.

# HYMN 488 (vs. 1 and 3).....“Be Thou My Vision”



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought, — by day or by night,  
 thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
 Heart of my heart, — what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880–1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860–1935), alt.;  
 Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874–1948);  
 Copyright: Words: This hymn appears courtesy of the Estate of Eleanor Hull and Chatto & Windus Ltd.  
 Music: By permission of Oxford University Press.

*All stand.*

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL .....Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## HYMN 365 (vs. 1 and 4) ..... “Come, Thou Almighty King”



1 Come, thou al - might - y King, help us thy Name to sing,  
 2 Come, thou in - car - nate Word, by heaven and earth a - dored;  
 3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, thy sa - cred wit - ness bear  
 4 To Thee, great One in Three, the high - est prais - es be,

help us to praise. Fa - ther whose love un - known all things cre -  
 our prayer at - tend: come, and thy peo - ple bless; come, give thy  
 in this glad hour: thou, who al - might - y art, now rule in  
 hence ev - er - more; thy sov - ereign ma - jes - ty may we in

at - ed own, build in our hearts thy throne, An - cient of Days.  
 word suc - cess; stab - lish thy right - eous - ness, Sa - vior and friend.  
 ev - ery heart, and ne'er from us de - part, Spi - rit of power.  
 glo - ry see, and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Words: Anonymous, ca. 1757, alt.; Music: *Moscow*, Felice de Giardini (1716–1796); harm. *The New Hymnal*, 1916, based on *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, and Lowel Mason (1792–1872).

## THE SERMON ..... “When We’re Lost for Words” *The Rev. Jane P. Ferguson*



# 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.

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**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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*Please be seated.*

# WAYS TO GIVE



## **TEXT TO GIVE**

Text SMEC to 73256



## **ONLINE**

[stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving](http://stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving)



## **MAIL**

St. Martin's Episcopal Church | 717 Sage Road, Houston, TX 77056



## **ESTATE PLANNING**

Contact: Director of Parish Stewardship, Ashley Pratka:  
[apratka@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:apratka@stmartinsepiscopal.org) or 346-335-8658



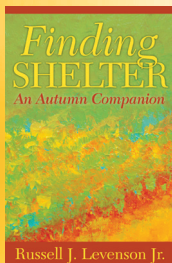
## **TRANSFER OF ASSETS**

Pledging and setting up a recurring gift online helps you and the church budget.  
Go online today: [stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving](http://stmartinsepiscopal.org/giving)

Please contact Accounting Supervisor, Debbie Hutchison  
with questions or for assistance:  
[dhutchison@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:dhutchison@stmartinsepiscopal.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



### Finding Shelter

*An Autumn Companion*

\$16.95 | 9781640652699

"Whenever Russ speaks or writes, I listen or read. He has the heart of a pastor and the skill of a poet. So grateful for him and this book."

– Max Lucado, Senior Minister of Oak Hills Church, San Antonio and Bestselling Author

"Russ Levenson's Finding Shelter is a continuous gentle invitation to come to the table and to taste and see that God is good. Written with warmth and wisdom, these pages are good company on the journey of faith."

– Amy Grant, Grammy Award Winning Recording Artist and Songwriter

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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.**

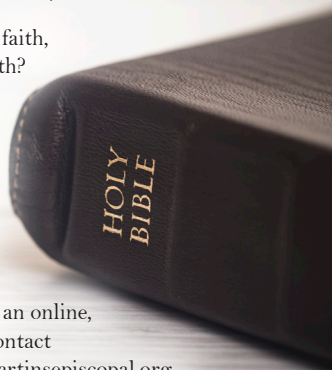
**Families who registered for the original program will receive kits containing inexpensive materials for crafts and lessons to use at home before the program starts.**



## Informational Meeting Thursday, July 30 | 7–8 p.m. | Via Zoom

How would you like a place where you can define your faith, refine your faith, articulate your faith, and live your faith?

If you have ever wanted any of these, EfM is for you! EfM, Education for Ministry, is a challenging and affirming four-year study developed and administered by the University of the South's School of Theology. Participants study the Old and New Testaments, church history, theology and liturgy. For more about the EfM program, see <http://efm.sewanee.edu>



Please join mentors John Ferguson and Alida Webb in an online, informational Zoom meeting. For more information, contact Katwana Coleman at 713-830-4110 or [kcoleman@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:kcoleman@stmartinsepiscopal.org)

## SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR *Healing and Wholeness*



### **Our Speaker**

The Rev. Dr. Suse McBay  
Associate for Adult Christian  
Education and Prayer Ministries

St. Martin's International OSL Healing Community offers a service of prayer for healing and wholeness on the first Wednesday of each month.

This short, online service of prayer and healing will teach us how to pray in a pandemic.  
**Visit [bit.ly/oslservice](http://bit.ly/oslservice) to join the meeting.**

### **Next Service**

**Wednesday, August 5 | 5 p.m.**

For more information, contact Katwana Coleman at [kcoleman@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:kcoleman@stmartinsepiscopal.org).



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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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!

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*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](mailto: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](mailto:censign@stmartinsepiscopal.org).

# THE OFFERTORY

## ANTHEM ..... “Day by Day” Martin How

Day by day, dear Lord, of thee three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day

Text: Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester, c. 1197-1253. Music: Martin How, b.1931. © 1977, The Royal School of Church Music, England. G.I.A. Publications. ARR.

## 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 *Pseaumes 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.**

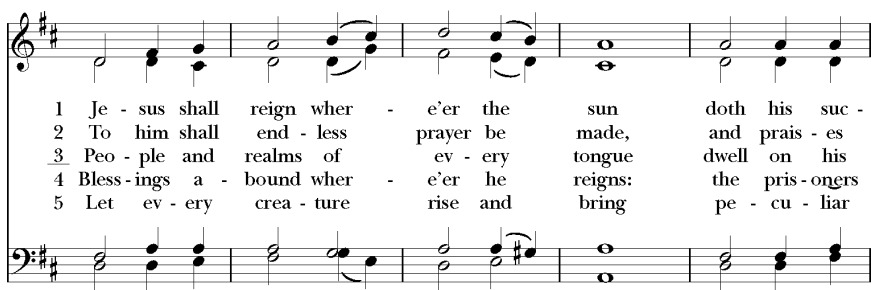
## CONCLUDING PRAYERS

### THE BLESSING

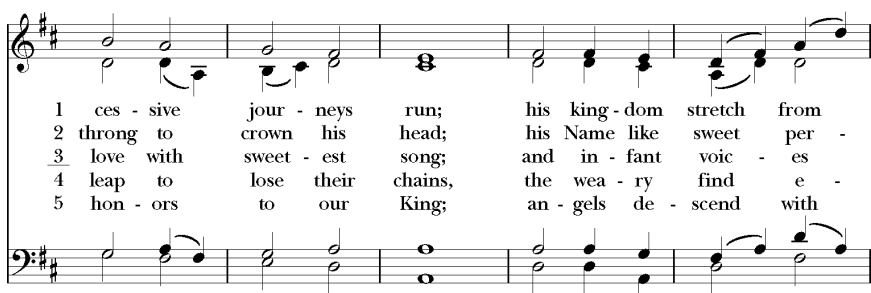
The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the son and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# HYMN 544 (vs. 1 and 5)..... "Jesus Shall Reign"



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun doth his suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners  
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



1 ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 2 throng to crown his head; his Name like sweet per -  
 3 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
 4 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 5 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with



1 shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 2 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 3 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name.  
 4 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 5 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt.; Music: *Duke Street*, John Hatton (d. 1793).

## THE DISMISSAL

*A Minister says the dismissal*

**People:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

# SERMON NOTES

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# OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

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## SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

**Dr. David Henning**

*Director of Music and Parish Organist*  
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**Mr. Kevin Riehle**

*Choral Director of Adult Choir*  
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**Mrs. Kellen Gray Anderson**

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hkight@stmartinsepiscopal.org

**Mrs. Kathy Johnson**

*Lay Minister of Membership Ministries*  
kjohnson@stmartinsepiscopal.org

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## ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

### *Vestry Executive Committee*

Mr. Jim Hibbert, *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\**

### *Vestry Members*

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Mr. Tommy Ford

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