

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29, 2024



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

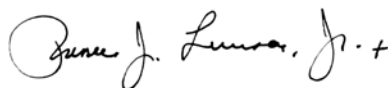
FROM THE RECTOR

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.

NOTICES

St. Martin's is a gun-free campus.

St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks.

**indicates when latecomers may be seated so as not to disturb other worshipers*

THE LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY

On this day, the ministers enter in silence.

All kneel for silent prayer, after which the Officiant stands and begins the Liturgy with the Collect of the Day.

Officiant: Blessed be our God.

People: For ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was contented to be betrayed, and given up into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSONHebrews 10:16-25

The Holy Spirit testifies saying,

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

John 18:1-19:42

Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and

warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” They answered, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.” The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked

him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and

it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Please stand.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

“They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The remaining lectionary for the day is on pages 14-17.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON “To Tell the Truth”
The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

PASSION HYMN “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing

1 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of
 2 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 3 o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of

1 sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 2 cross for - sake me: lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 3 sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

Words: John Bowring (1792–1872); Music: *Rathbun*, Ithamar Conkey (1815–1867).

THE SOLEMN COLLECTS *(kneel)*

Officiant

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Deacon

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;
For its unity in witness and service
For all bishops and other ministers
and the people whom they serve
For Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector, our Bishops, and all the
people of this diocese
For all Christians in this community
For those about to be baptized

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

Officiant

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Deacon

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Joe, the President of the United States
For the Congress and the Supreme Court
For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations
For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

Officiant

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with thy wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility thy dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Deacon

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute
and the oppressed
For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled
For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish
For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair
For the sorrowful and bereaved
For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Officiant

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to thee, that they may find thy mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Deacon

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation
For those who have lost their faith
For those hardened by sin or indifference
For the contemptuous and the scornful
For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and
persecutors of his disciples
For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Officiant

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know thee as thou art revealed in thy Son Jesus Christ; let thy Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to thy fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Deacon

Let us commit ourselves to our God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

Officiant

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on thy whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of thy providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence

AT THE MEDITATION ON THE CROSS

ANTHEM “O Sorrow Deep”

O Trauerigkeit

O sorrow deep! Who would not weep with heartfelt pain and sighing! God the Father’s only Son in the tomb is lying. The Paschal Lamb, like Isaac’s ram, in blood was offered for us, pouring out his life that he might to life restore us. Blest shall they be eternally who ponder in their weeping that the glorious Prince of Life should in death be sleeping. O Jesus blest, my help and rest, with tears I pray thee, hear me: Now, and even unto death, dearest Lord, be near me.

Words: St. 1, Friedrich von Spee (1591–1635); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944). Sts. 2–3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). St. 4, Johann Rist (1607–1667); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944); Music: *O Trauerigkeit*, melody and bass *Himmlischer Lieder*, 1641, alt.; harm. *Hymnal 1982*; Copyright: Words: Sts.2-3 © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: Harmonization © 1985, The Church Pension Fund.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Officiant 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.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 21 for upcoming events.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM “Blest are They Who are Sorrowful”
Movement 1 from *Ein Deutsches Requiem*
Johannes Brahms

Blest are they who are sorrowful; blest are they that mourn; for they shall have comfort. They who in sorrow with tears are sowing, shall with rejoicing in joy be reaping. Who goeth forth and weepeth, and beareth precious seed, shall come with rejoicing, and bringing his sheaves with him

Text: Matthew 5: 4, Psalm 126: 5, 6. Texts selected by the composer from the German Bible. Translation, paraphrase, adaptation, and prosaic underlay by Lara Hoggard. © 1997 by Lara Hoggard. All rights reserved.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS *(kneel)*

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray thee to set thy passion, cross, and death between thy judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to thy holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and Holy Spirit thou liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

After the final prayer and the departure of the ministers, then the people depart in silence.



Every year on Good Friday pilgrims from all over the world gather to walk along the *Via Dolorosa* in Jerusalem. By dying on the cross at Calvary, Jesus delivered us from sin, Satan and death eternal.

The history of Anglicanism in Jerusalem goes back to 1841. The Anglican Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East has borne, in a special way, the responsibility of sharing the cross of Jesus.

Since 1922, Episcopalians have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the ***Good Friday Offering***. It is vital that we continue to share in this burden, and not let our brothers and sisters in Jerusalem carry the cross alone.

We invite and encourage you to give generously at the Good Friday services today.

OTHER READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him
– so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals –
so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

OTHER READINGS FOR THE DAY

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

OTHER READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE PSALMPsalm 22

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 “He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.
- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.
- 12 Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- 13 They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- 14 I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

OTHER READINGS FOR THE DAY

- 16 Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.
- 17 They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing.
- 18 Be not far away, O Lord; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.
- 19 Save me from the sword, *
my life from the power of the dog.
- 20 Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
- 21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- 22 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Individuals are included on the Continuing Prayers list for numerous reasons, some of which may include recovery from illness, thanksgiving or need for support for special ministry and mission. In addition to praying for participants in cancer support groups, the Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group and The Gathering, this week please pray for the following:

Robin Adair	Ann Halverson	Judy Peach
Bobbie Adams	Jean Hatton	Betty Polando
Carolyn Alban	Kayla Hamaker	Joseph Powell
Katie and Harvey Altmann	Amy Heath	Ophelia Pujol
Scotty Arnoldy	Mollie Hill	Barbara Quackenbush
Edith Avery	Marguerite Hillgers	Heather Rathnau
Ally Babineaux	Russell Hughes	Dana Raymant
Shelly Bain	Marilyn Ingham	Marjorie Reeks
Kathy Beadnell	Thelma Isenhardt	Phyllis Reinhardt
Beth Beathard	Christine Jean	Monica Rivera
Cory Blackman	Mary and Jim Jennings	John Davis Roady
Kenny Brown	John Justice	Joe Rodriguez
Harry Burrow	Sandra "Sandy" Justice	Maggie Rodriguez
John Canon	Mary Anne Kannard	Consuelo Saldana
Bella Carosi	Candi Keebler	Helen and Jim Shaffer
Cole Cattan	Dick Kilday	Caroline Shanahan
Debbie Chernosky	Marjorie Krajian	Clif Shoemake
Doug Clarke	Reggie Lang	Bob Spencer
Hallie Cooley	Rhea Latta	Trish St. Jean Martin
Almeria Cottingham	Bruce Michael Lee	Paul Therrien
Michael Craig	Nancy Liles	Annie Troung
Sam Cruse	Nicole Holford Lockney	Christine Troung
James Cunningham	Amanda Lodge	Mary Watters
Gail Davis	Ryan Logan	Stephen Wedemeyer
Bobby de Sosa	Bella Martin	Ann Winters
Linda de Sosa	Ronnie Martin	Stacy Wood
Ross Dunn	Janet McDaniel	Eric Zoerb
Kiersten Dyke	Barbara McMahan	Alexi
Becca Earhart	Dave McStravick	Atticus
Stacey and John Elliott	Frances Melicks	Elizabeth
Mary Finucane	Len Menefee	Henry
Charles Flores	Margaret Milner	Julie
Will Fogle	Ruth Moorhead	Laura
Susan Folk	Stuart Nixon	Lynne
Julie G.	Ann Noel	Mary Jane
Catherine Gonzales	Deborah Oliver	Scott
Nancy Gore	Andrew O'Malley	Stuart
Shea Guinn	Bob Paddock	
Bette Haidusek	Jim Paddock	

Please be advised that we will be updating the Continuing Prayers list twice a year in the weeks after Easter and All Saints' Day. The list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Continuing Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vriviera@smec.org.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Prayers for those on Active Military Duty in the Armed Forces:

LCDR Bradley Hoffman
Lt. Col. Wesley J. Hunnell
Capt. Blake J. Kidd
Capt. Jack Mullen
1st Lt. Alex Mullen
PFC Parris F. Owen
Corporal James W. Peoples
Lt. Paul Piana
Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant

Please be advised that each year the week after Veterans Day, this list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Military Service Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vriviera@smec.org.

Please circle the name of any loved one that you would like to remain on our Continuing Prayer list, tear out this sheet of your bulletin and place it in the Prayer List box in the Narthex. You may also email Valerie Rivera at vriviera@smec.org with this information. Your assistance in maintaining our prayer list is most appreciated.

SERMON NOTES



*St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Community
10135 West Rd, Houston, TX 77064*



HOLY SATURDAY BAPTISMS

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
10 a.m. • Christ Chapel

The rite of Holy Baptism is a special occasion for St. Martin's — a service of joy that underscores the communal aspect of worship and expresses God's presence in the midst of His people.

People of all ages and stages of life are invited to enter into a lifelong journey with Christ through the sacrament of baptism.

Join us and welcome new members to St. Martin's!

Contact: Rocio Velazquez • rvelazquez@smec.org • 713-985-3807



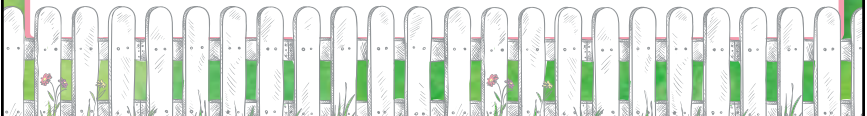
The Episcopal Church Women of St. Martin's Invites You to



Saturday, March 30 • 10 a.m. • Free Admission
Parish Life Center
Bring your egg basket!

The adventures begin with a reading of the Easter story in the Parish Life Center, followed by an Easter egg hunt, crafts, a petting zoo, face painting, balloons and more. Everyone is welcome!

Contact: Valerie Rivera • 713-985-3817 • vrivera@smec.org



EASTER

AT ST. MARTIN'S

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

The Sunday of the Resurrection

Easter Morning Breakfast *Hosted by St. Martin's Vestry*

8–11 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

Before or after the Easter services, enjoy a complimentary breakfast served and sponsored by the current and past Vestry of St. Martin's.

Traditional Worship Services

7, 9, *11:15 a.m. and 6 p.m. • The Church

Holy Eucharist; festive music by the Parish Choir, Gloria Dei Organ, brass and tympani. **The 11:15 a.m. service will be live-streamed.*

Family Table Services

8 and 9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

Join us for a family-friendly worship service with Holy Eucharist.

Riverway Service

11:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

This worship service for students, families and adults features the Holy Eucharist and beautiful music.

Student Ministries Easter Egg Hunt

10:15–10:40 a.m. and 10:45–11:10 a.m. • Student Life Center

Students are invited to take part in this tradition with a twist!

Sunday School

Sunday school classes will not meet March 31 in observance of Easter.

Childcare

Childcare will be provided for infants through three-year-olds in the Children's Life Center during all Easter morning services.



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

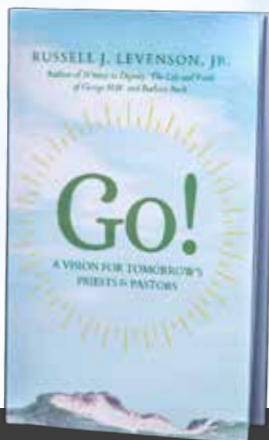
Go! A VISION FOR TOMORROW'S PRIESTS & PASTORS

When it comes to priests and pastors, today's crisis of vocation isn't just about the numbers. It runs into issues of identity and purpose. Originally delivered at the 177th Commencement Address at Nashotah House Theological Seminary, "Go!" seeks to reignite the passion of priests and pastors everywhere.

Dr. Levenson reminds us that pastoral ministry can always be renewed so long as we are willing to obey the fundamental command of Jesus Christ: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations."

“These are tough days for the Church, and we need a united Christ-centered ministry for the service of Christ. Russ crafts an attractive vision of ministry.”

— George Carey, 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury



Contact: Barbara Shoemaker

Gift Shoppe Supervisor

bshoemaker@smec.org • 713-985-3834

Published by VTS Press and available at St. Martin's Gift Shoppe or wherever fine books are sold.

WAYS *to* GIVE



TEXT

Text SMEC to 73256



MAIL

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



ONLINE

bit.ly/smeccgiving



BEQUESTS

Contact: Ashley Pratkan
apratka@smec.org or 346-335-8658



TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Pledging and setting up a recurring gift online helps you and the church budget

For all stewardship questions, contact Debbie Hutchison at
dhutchison@smec.org or 713-985-3803.

OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. David Henning

Director of Music and Parish Organist
dhenning@smec.org

Mr. Keith Lathrom

Choral Director of the Adult Choir
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Ms. Hannah Cen

Associate Organist
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Ms. Carole Nelson

Coordinator of Children's Music Ministries
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Mrs. Ashley Monachelli

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Mrs. Kathy Johnson

Director of Membership
kjohnson@smec.org

Mrs. Barbara Piana

Verger and Worship Coordinator
bpiana@smec.org

ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

Vestry Executive Committee

Mr. Dan Meyer, *Senior Warden*
Mr. Ryan LaRue, *Junior Warden*
Mrs. Nancy Bynon, *Missions Chair*
Ms. Sherrie Perkins, *Treasurer*
Mr. Logan Walters, *Clerk*
Mr. Tommy Ford, *Past Senior Warden*
Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., *Parish Stewardship Chair*
Mr. Andy Harvin, *Chancellor**

Vestry Members

Mr. Scott Anderson
Mrs. Summer Craig
Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes
Mr. Will Hedges
The Hon. Edith Jones
Mr. David Leonard
Mrs. Susan McConn
Mr. Roy Nichol
Mrs. Courtney Schilling
Mr. Milton West

Associate Members

The Hon. James A. Baker, III, *Special Counsel to the Vestry**
Mr. David Harvin, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2024*
Mrs. Beth Reeves, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2024*
Mrs. Hope Huber, *Altar Guild President 2023-2024*
Mrs. Kathy Bennett, *ECW President 2023-2024*
Mr. Perry Ruthven, *Men of St. Martin's President 2023-2024*
Mr. Bob Porter, *Usher Representative 2022-2024*

**Denotes Associate Vestry filled at the discretion of the Rector.*



Mrs. Nancy Bynon
Vestry Representative
Noon



Mr. Scott Anderson
Vestry Representative
6 p.m.

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ
The Head of This Church



The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.
Rector
lthough@smec.org



The Rev. Sharron L. Cox
Associate for Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Ministries
scox@smec.org



The Rev. Martin J. Bastian
Vice-Rector
mbastian@smec.org



The Rev. R. Wesley Arning
Associate for Riverway and Discipleship Ministries
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The Rev. John D. Sundara
Vicar for Worship and Evangelism
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The Rev. Naomi B. Sundara
Chaplain to the Preschool
nsundara@smec.org



The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson
Vicar for Pastoral Care
lneilson@smec.org



The Rev. John R. Bentley, Jr.
Pastoral Associate
jbentley@smec.org



The Rev. Alex D. Graham III
Associate for Children and Family Ministries
agraham@smec.org



The Rev. Gillian (Gill) B. Keyworth
Deacon
gkeyworth@smec.org

WE INVITE YOU TO
KEEP THIS BOOKLET
FOR REFERENCE.

*717 Sage Road
Houston, TX 77056
713-621-3040*

STMARTINSEPISCOPAL.ORG

