

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 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

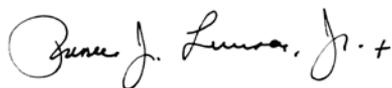
FROM THE RECTOR

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*

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Eucharist at 7 a.m. is a spoken service. Musical pieces in this booklet will be skipped or replaced by spoken liturgy, as noted.

VOLUNTARY “Prayer”

Gabriel Pierné

All stand following the greeting.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect (kneel)

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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.

THE LESSON Psalm 51

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your
loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.
- 19 Be favorable and gracious to Zion, *
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- 20 Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

HYMN 657 (vs. 1-2).....“Love Divine, All Love’s 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).

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPELJohn 8:2-11

Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining lectionary for the day is on pages 22-23.

HYMN 657 (vs. 3).....“Love Divine, All Love’s 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,
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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).

Please be seated.

THE SERMON “The Mark of Love”
The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

After the Sermon, all stand, and the Celebrant invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance: by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

The Celebrant says the following prayer over the ashes to be imposed.

The ushers come forward during the prayer to assist worshipers to the Altar Rail.

Almighty God, thou hast created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by thy gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Celebrant invites those who desire the imposition of ashes to come to the Altar Rail.

The ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.

PSALM 103 *(said responsively by half verse at 7 a.m. only in place of sung Psalm)*

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; *
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.

- 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on
those who fear him, *
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant *
and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The Lord has set his throne in heaven, *
and his kingship has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding, *
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, *
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion; *
bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 51 "Miserere Mei"
Gregorio Allegri

Translation is Psalm 51 on pages 1-2.

- 1 Miserere mei, Deus: secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.
2 Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum, dele iniquitatem meam.
3 Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea: et a peccato meo munda me.
4 Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco: et peccatum meum contra me est semper.
5 Tibi soli peccavi, et malum coram te feci: ut justificeris in sermonibus tuis, et vincas cum judicaris.
6 Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus sum: et in peccatis concepit me mater mea.
7 Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti: incerta et occulta sapientiae tuae manifestasti mihi.
8 Asperges me hysopo, et mundabor: lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.
9 Auditui meo dabis gaudium et laetitiam: et exsultabunt ossa humiliata.
10 Averte faciem tuam a peccatis meis: et omnes iniquitates meas dele.
11 Cor mundum crea in me, Deus: et spiritum rectum innova in visceribus meis.

- 12 Ne proicias me a facie tua: et spiritum sanctum tuum ne auferas a me.
- 13 Redde mihi laetitiam salutaris tui: et spiritu principali confirma me.
- 14 Docebo iniquos vias tuas: et impii ad te convertentur.
- 15 Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus, Deus salutis meae: et exsultabit lingua mea justitiam tuam.
- 16 Domine, labia mea aperies: et os meum annuntiabit laudem tuam.
- 17 Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, dedissem utique: holocaustis non delectaberis.
- 18 Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus: cor contritum, et humiliatum, Deus, non despicias.
- 19 Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tua Sion: ut aedificentur muri Ierusalem.
- 20 Tunc acceptabis sacrificium justitiae, oblationes, et holocausta: tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos.

Text: Psalm 51. Music: Gregorio Allegri. Choral Public Domain Library

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

Minister and People

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to thee and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Minister continues

We have not loved thee with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

We have been deaf to thy call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved thy Holy Spirit.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

We confess to thee, O Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation
of other people,
We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more
fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our
dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to
commend the faith that is in us.
We confess to thee, O Lord.

Accept our repentance, O Lord, for the wrongs we have
done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and
our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our
neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those
who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, O Lord.

For our waste and pollution of thy creation, and our lack of
concern for those who come after us.
Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let thy anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for thy mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of thy salvation.
That we may show forth thy glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of thy Son our Lord,
Bring us with all thy saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, hath given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE *(stand)*

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

People: And with thy spirit.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 26 for upcoming events.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM “Remember Not, Lord, Our Offenses”
Henry Purcell

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins, but spare us, good Lord. Spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us forever. Spare us, good Lord.

Words: From the litany. Music: Henry Purcell (1659-1695). © 2010 Oxford University Press.

AT THE PRESENTATION *(stand)*

(7 a.m.)

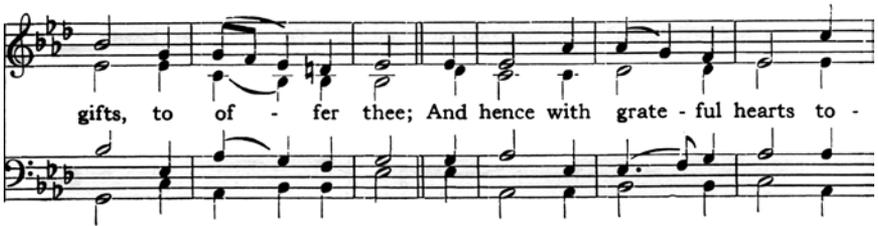
Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord;

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

DOXOLOGY.....*Gardiner*



All things are thine; no gift have we, Lord of all



gifts, to of - fer thee; And hence with grate - ful hearts to -



day Thine own be - fore thy feet we lay.

Text, John Greenleaf Whittier, 1872; Music, *Gardiner*, William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies, 1815; By permission of Houghton Mifflin Company.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Celebrant and People (said at 7 a.m.; sung at noon and 6 p.m.)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord
God of hosts, Heav'n and earth are full of thy
glo - ry: Glo - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Bless - ed is he that com - eth in the
Name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the High - est.

John Merbecke, 1549. Copyright © 1940, 1943, 1961. The Church Pension Fund.

The Celebrant continues (kneel)

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant and People (said at 7 a.m.; sung at noon and 6 p.m.)

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world,
have mer-cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the
sins of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Lamb of God,
that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Celebrant says the Invitation.

All Christians who have been baptized with water and in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and are permitted to receive Holy Communion in their own church are welcome to do so on this occasion. If you do not wish to receive one or both Elements, cross your arms over your chest and the Clergy will give you a blessing. Please tell the priest administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.

ANTHEM “Call To Remembrance”
Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindness, which hath been ever of old. O remember not the sins and offences of my youth; but according to thy mercy think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

Text: Psalm 25: 5, 6. Music: edition by Walter Collins, © Hinshaw Music, 1981.

HYMN 645“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
 * 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 * 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-les-tial feed-eth.
 3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877); para. Psalm 23; Music: *St. Columba*, Irish melody, harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

HYMN "Lord, You Are More Precious"

Lord, You are more pre-cious than sil-ver; Lord, You are more

cost-ly than gold. Lord, You are more beau-ti-ful than

dia-monds, And noth-ing I de-sire com-pares with You.

Optional extended or choral ending

Noth-ing I de-sire, noth-ing I de-sire com-pares with You.

Text and Music: Lynn DeShazo; © 1982, Lynn DeShazo (ADMIN. by Integrity's Hosanna! Music c/o Integrity Music, Inc.). CCLI #805314.

HYMN “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores thee! My

heart is glad to say the— words: thou art ho - ly, Lord.

Music: Geoff Weaver. Arr. © 1993 Geoff Weaver/Jubilate Hymns. (Admin. by Hope Publishing Co.) All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-705539.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

ASH WEDNESDAY BLESSING

All stand.

HYMN 142 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,
3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,

1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838–1898); Music: *St. Flavian*, melody from *Day's Psalter*, 1562; adapt, and harm. Richard Redhead (1820–1901).

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluias are omitted during the season of Lent.

Minister: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY “Fugue in E Minor” Johann Sebastian Bach

Ash Wednesday is one of three solemn days in the Church year when the Clergy do not greet worshipers at the Church door.

SERMON NOTES



Mary Magdalene
1616 – Carlo Dolci – 1686
Florence, Italy

READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENTJoel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her canopy.

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

THE EPISTLE 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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

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

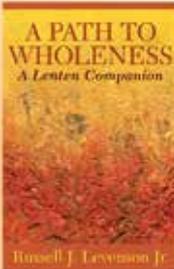
Prayers for those on Active Military Duty in the Armed Forces:

LCDR Bradley Hoffman
Lt. Col. Wesley J. Hunnell
Capt. Blake J. Kidd
Capt. Jack Mullen
1st Lt. Alex Mullen
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 vrivera@smec.org.

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

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



A Path to Wholeness **A Lenten Companion**

For those seeking inspiration and devotion for Lent and beyond, *A Path to Wholeness* is an invitation to Lenten observance through Biblical passages and reflections.

“Russ Levenson’s Lenten devotions breathe with the air of a seasoned pastor and preacher. With his characteristic wit and Southern charm — and many, many good stories — Levenson brings the gospel to life. Above all, he shows what it looks like to devote one’s life to the only one who deserves our allegiance, Christ Jesus our Savior. One could look for no better path to wholeness.”

—The Rev. Dr. Christopher A. Beoley, Rector of The Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Dallas

Available at St. Martin’s Gift Shoppe or anywhere you purchase fine books

Contact: Barbara Shoemaker · 713-985-3840 · giftshoppe@smec.org

ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14

The first day of Lent is a special day of Holy Obligation. Clergy will impose ashes on your forehead, making the mark of the cross.

Traditional Worship Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. • The Church
The noon service will be livestreamed.

Riverway Contemporary Worship Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
6:30 p.m. • Parish Life Center
Our contemporary service provides a more relaxed worship experience in the Anglican tradition. Join us for worship as we impart ashes and take the Eucharist.

Ash Wednesday Student Supper and Worship 5:30–8 p.m. • Student Life Center and Parish Life Center
Students in grades 6–12 are invited to a simple soup supper, followed by worship at the Riverway community’s Ash Wednesday service. There is no cost for this event.



THEOLOGY



LIFE

Sundays
Feb. 18 – March 17
10:15 – 11 a.m.
Bagby Parish Hall

A SHORT HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Led By The Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson, Jr.



During Lent, join us for a Sunday school class series that explores the history of Christian thought with the Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson, Jr.

Contact: Amanda DeViney, Clergy Assistant
adeviney@smec.org • 713-830-4110



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SADDLE UP &
**SAVE
LIVES**

Monday, Feb. 19
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Student Life Center

Walk-ins Welcome!
Schedule your next appointment.
bit.ly/smecblooddrive



Buckle up for some rodeo excitement! Donors who give blood will receive a **"Rodeo" T-shirt*** as a thank you for saving lives and helping patients in our community.

**While supplies last. Promotional item may be substituted for item of equal value.*



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Questions? Contact Justin Jacobson Avery
at events@smec.org or 713-985-3838.



Gulf Coast Regional
Blood Center



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Sundays, before and after
the morning services.**

*Parishioners and guests are invited
to make their pilgrimage along the
Via Dolorosa, or "Way of Sorrows,"
during Lent and Holy Week 2024.*

A free guide is available in the Northex
of the Church or download a digital
copy at bit.ly/smeclent

Wednesdays, Feb. 21–March 20

4:30–5:30 p.m. • The Church

Holy Week, March 25–28

11 a.m.–1 p.m. • The Church

Good Friday, March 29

11 a.m.–noon and 1–2 p.m. • The Church

Contact: Barbara Piana

bpiana@smec.org • 713-830-4116

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT LENTEN SERIES

FEBRUARY 21

"Our Father"

Dinner • Bagby Parish Hall 5–6:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist • The Church 5:30 p.m.

Program • Bagby Parish Hall 6:30 p.m.



LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY...

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

Join us weekly as Dr. Levenson offers this
five-part review of our Lord's most well-known
sermon. Each class is of its own, so weekly
attendance is not necessary ... but preferred!

Contact: Juli Browning • jbrowning@smec.org • 713-985-3845

THURSDAY AFTERNOON ADULT LENTEN SERIES

Then Sings My Soul

Thursday, Feb. 22
4–5 p.m.
Chapel Reception Hall



*The Rev.
John D. Sundara
Vicar for Worship and
Evangelism*

During Lent, join St. Martin's Clergy as they share a favorite hymn or song that transformed their lives and their faith, and learn how this drew them closer to Christ.

Contact: Amanda DeViney, Clergy Assistant
adeviney@smec.org • 713-830-4110



OSL Lenten Quiet Day

*Putting on Christ: The Baptismal
Nature of Lent*

Saturday, Feb. 24
9 a.m. – noon • Parish Life Center

The Church has long associated the season of Lent with the preparation for the sacrament of baptism and for living a baptismal life. Meditations by the Revs. Sharron Cox and Wesley Arning on the intersection between this sacrament and Lent will be given, with quiet time for reflection and prayer.

Contact: The Rev. Sharron Cox • scox@smec.org • 713-830-4131





Remember a loved one by ordering lilies to decorate The Church at Easter. All requests received will be included in the worship booklet available at all Easter services. Names submitted after the deadline will be printed in worship booklets in weeks following Easter.

Donations Open: 8 a.m. Monday, Feb. 12

Donations Close: 5 p.m. Monday, March 4

Due to limited space, please do not include additional dedication language.

Make your flower dedication online at
bit.ly/easteraltarflowers

Contact: Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam • relhakam@smec.org • 713-830-4146

WAYS *to* GIVE



TEXT

Text SMEC to 73256



MAIL

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



ONLINE

bit.ly/smecgiving



BEQUESTS

Contact: Ashley Pratkan at
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.

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

General Questions

Contact the Reception Desk at
713-621-3040.

Prayer Requests

Contact the Prayer Request Line at
713-830-4124 or Valerie Rivera at
713-985-3817 or vrivera@smec.org.

After Hours Emergencies

Call 713-621-3040 and press 2 to reach
the Priest on Call.

Death Notifications and Funerals

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

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
klathrom@smec.org

Ms. Hannah Cen

Associate Organist
hcen@smec.org

Ms. Carole Nelson

Coordinator of Children's Music Ministries
cnelson@smec.org

Mrs. Ashley Monachelli

Director of Children's Ministry
amonachelli@smec.org

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.*



Mr. Dan Meyer
Vestry Representative
7 a.m.



Mr. Roy W. Nichol
Vestry Representative
Noon

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*
rwarning@smec.org



The Rev. John D. Sundara
Vicar for Worship and Evangelism
jsundara@smec.org



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



Mrs. Sherrie Perkins
Vestry Representative
6 p.m.

WE INVITE YOU TO
KEEP THIS BOOKLET
FOR REFERENCE.

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

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