

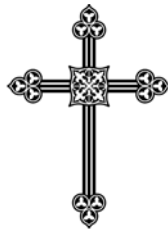
ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025



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

WELCOME TO ST. MARTIN'S

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.

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

Prayer 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.*
 - *To use a hearing assisted device, see one of our ushers.*
 - *St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks.*
 - *Please silence all cell phones when entering The Church and also refrain from texting.*
- Thank you for being respectful of God and others as we spend time together in worship.*



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

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 for the procession of the Cross.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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 Joel 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.

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?'"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

HYMN 441 (vs. 1-3).....“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 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing, light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
 *5 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 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 4 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that
 5 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 ra - diance stream - ing adds new lus - ter to the day.
 4 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.
 5 sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

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

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

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining lectionary for the day is on page 23.

HYMN 441 (vs. 4-5).....“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 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
 *5 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 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 4 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that
 5 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.
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 5 sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.

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

Please be seated.

THE SERMON The Rev. Alex D. Graham III

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

- 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.

P S A L M 51 “Miserere Mei”
 Gregorio Allegri

Translation is Psalm 51 on pages 7-8.

- 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.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 24 for classes and events.

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*



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.**

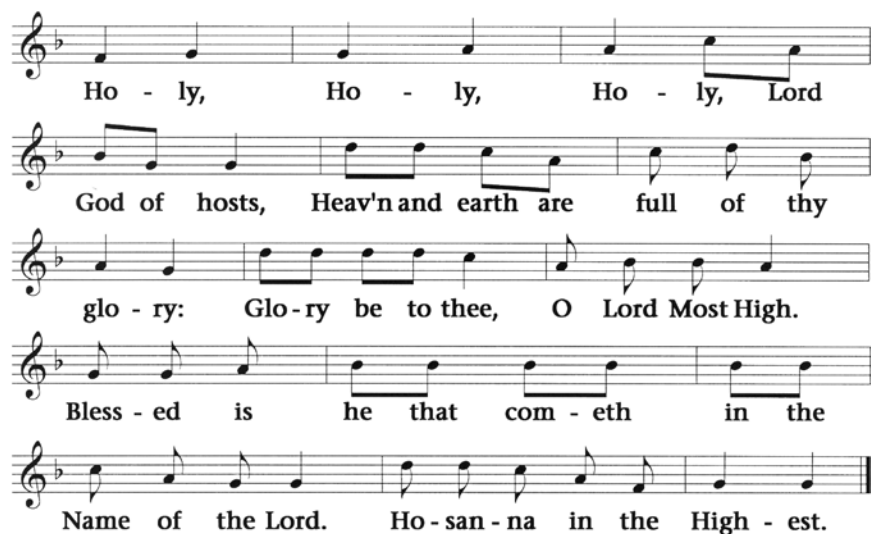
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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.)



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.

(7 a.m. only in place of Fraction Anthem)

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

People: Have mercy upon us.

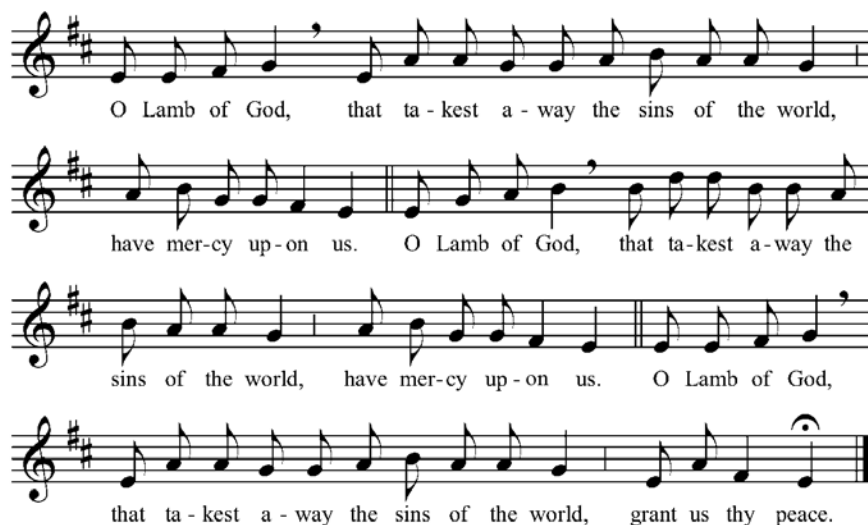
Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

People: Have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:

People: Grant us thy peace.

FRACTION ANTHEM



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

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 Clergy 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 he-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-less-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 (kneel)

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.*

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:

Crockett Abraham	Dick Kilday	Abigail
Carolyn Alban	Searcy Kracke	Bill
Harvey Altmann	Mary Tyler Labhart	Dave
Edith Avery	Tom Lamb	David
Shelly Bain	Bruce Michael Lee	Elizabeth and Scott
Cory Blackman	Mary Lehman	Grace
Jennifer Broussard	Nancy Liles	Harold
Gary Browning	Patrick Maehs	Henry
Helen Paige Buck	Martha Marks	Jeff
Brian Burke	Bill Maynard	Laura
Delonda Citrano	Barbara and Bob McClellan	Lynne
Sammy A. Citrano III	Janet McDaniel	Sara
Gail Davis	Adams McHenry	Sharon
Paul Davison	Frank Melcher	Wayne
Bobby de Sosa	Len Menefee	
Linda de Sosa	Megan Palsa	
Holly DeMoss	Dan Pate	
Jeanne Dewey	Ophelia Pujol	
Mercedes Dewey	Phyllis Reinhardt	
Richard Dewey	Hugh Ripps	
Charlotte Dion	Monica Rivera	
Ross Dunn	John Roady	
Stacey and John Elliott	Magdalene Robbins	
Michael Finn	Michael Scarborough	
Will Fogle	Helen and Jim Shaffer	
Catherine Gonzales	Caroline Shanahan	
Nancy Gore	Clif Shoemake	
The Rev. Alex Graham	Fran Gardner Shores	
Shea Guinn	Joel Speights	
Bette Haidusek	Mitchell Neal Starkey	
Cathy Haidusek	Blake and Matt Stokes	
Nancy Hall	Jan and Jim Stokes	
Jean Hatton	Scarlett and Luke Taylor	
Nancy Haywood	Chris W.	
Wendy Hurt	Grantland Wagner	
John Illeman	MaeJoyce Wagner	
Clare Jan	Margaret Watson	
Mary and Jim Jennings	Mary Watters	
Katie Jones	Stephen Wedemeyer	
Phyllis Katharine	Eric Zoerb	

Please be advised that the weeks after Easter and All Saints' Day, this 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:

Lt. Col. Julian Benton	1st Lt. Alex Mullen
1LT. Tom Cadwallender	PFC. Parris F. Owen
1LT. Yonatan Cadwallender	SrA James W. Peoples
Capt. Casey Gainer	Lt. Paul Piana
LCDR Bradley Hoffman	Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant
LTC Wesley J. Hunnell	PO1 Brian Powell
1st Lt. Stephen A. Jeckovich	Sgt. Joel Rowell
Major Blake J. Kidd	PO Evan Tomlin
Capt. Jack Mullen	

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.

OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES

 *family table*

9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The Family Table service with Holy Eucharist combines contemporary worship music with traditional liturgy and is designed for families with young children.

 RIVERWAY

11:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The Riverway Contemporary Service is both Anglican and modern, offering the Holy Eucharist in a relaxed service with contemporary music.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist Services
7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. • Christ Chapel

OSL Healing Prayer Service
First Wednesday of the month
5 p.m. • Parish Life Center
Online at bit.ly/oslservice

READINGS FOR THE DAY

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.

SUNDAY. MARCH 9

Sunday School classes for Students and Children at 10:15 a.m. will not be offered due to Spring Break.

✦ ADULTS

8+

Discuss the lectionary readings of the day following the 8 a.m. service.

8:55 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall

INTRO TO ANGLICANISM with the Rev. John Sundara
Discuss the Book of Common Prayer, the Sacraments and the Church's history and polity to explore the Episcopal faith.

10:15 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER with the Rev. Sharron Cox
Spend a morning in silent prayer and sharing as we grow to learn to love as God loves.

10:15 a.m. • Levenson Pastoral Care Center, Bride's Parlor

✦ CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

CHILDCARE

Available during all morning services for six-weeks through three-year-olds.

8 a.m. • Children's Life Center

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



*To view all our Christian education options,
scan the QR code or visit **bit.ly/smecedu**.*



SPRING FORWARD-2025

Daylight Saving begins
March 9.

Remember to set your
clocks an hour ahead
at 2 a.m.



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lenten Quiet Day

Jesus' Parables of Grace

Sponsored by St. Martin's Chapter of the Order of St. Luke

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

9 a.m. – Noon • Parish Life Center

Grace is one of those tricky words that means more than one thing. It is God's undeserved favor and a quality of God. It is power given for day-to-day living; yet, as a gift, grace cannot be a prize for which we grasp or achieve. And it is in Lent each year that we encounter anew our need for grace, no matter its definition, as we soberly reflect on our lives.

St. Martin's Clergy will meditate on three different of Jesus' parables on grace. Time is allocated after each presentation for quiet prayer and reflection. The Quiet Day will end with Noontday Prayer.

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





WEDNESDAY ADULT LENTEN SERIES

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus: The Seven Christian Habits

MARCH 12

Reclaiming Attention: Worship and Prayer

Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden

This Lent, we invite you to spend Wednesday evenings with your Church family as we seek to re-focus our lives and hearts on Jesus. We'll walk together through the Seven Christian Habits as good practices God has given the church to draw us into a closer relationship with Him.

Dinner (\$10) • Bagby Parish Hall • 5–6:15 p.m.

Holy Eucharist • The Church • 5:30 p.m.

Program • Bagby Parish Hall • 6:15 p.m.



Sign up for Dinner at smec.org/cafe
or purchase tickets at the Gift Shoppe
by Tuesday of each week.

Upcoming

Speakers:

Week 2: The Rev. Dr. Suse McBay

Week 3: The Rev. Dr. Michael Lloyd

Week 4: The Rev. Wesley Arning

Week 5: The Rev. Sharron Cox



ST. MARTIN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THEOLOGY



The Seven Deadly Sins

And How to Avoid Them

Sundays, 10:15–11 a.m.

Bagby Parish Hall

This season of Lent, we'll be looking more closely at the traditional "seven deadly sins:" how they draw us away from our true home in God, and how by God's grace we can be forgiven and drawn back to the true source of all joy, the God who loves us and made us for Himself.

Contact: The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden
jhylden@smec.org • 713-830-4106



MARCH 16

Lust and Gluttony

Led by Dr. Elisabeth Kincaid



MARCH 23

Pride and Greed

Led by Dr. Michael Lloyd



MARCH 30

Wrath and Envy

Led by Dr. Philip Tallon



APRIL 6

Sloth (or Acedia)

Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden

MEMBERSHIP

If you are visiting today, please fill out a Welcome Card from the pew rack to place in the offering plate or complete it online by scanning the QR code or visiting **bit.ly/smecvisitors**. Please introduce yourself to one of our Clergy and we will be in touch to let you know more about our Parish Family.



Seeking membership in a parish is a very important step and it is our goal to support your understanding of our Parish, its ministries and your place in the life of St. Martin's. Our membership process begins by attending one of our quarterly Membership 101 classes.

Contact: Kathy Johnson • 713-985-3834 • kjohnson@smec.org

ST. MARTIN'S IS HERE FOR YOU

For general questions, contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040 during business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday–Friday).

For pastoral concerns during business hours, contact 713-985-3817 or pastoralcare@smec.org.

For pastoral emergencies after hours and weekends, call 713-621-3040 and follow the prompts to reach the priest on call.

For prayer requests, contact the prayer request line at 713-830-4124 or Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vriviera@smec.org.

For 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

Mr. Tyler (TD) Davis

Interim Director of Student Ministries
tdavis@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

Ms. Sherrie Perkins, *Senior Warden*
Mr. Logan Walters, *Junior Warden*
Mrs. Susan McConn, *Missions Chair*
Mr. David Leonard, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Courtney Schilling, *Clerk*
Mr. Dan Meyer, *Senior Council President*
Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., *Parish Stewardship Chair*
Mr. Andy Harvin, *Chancellor**

Vestry Members

Mr. Scott Anderson
Mrs. Hunter Bell
Mrs. Kathy Bennett
Mrs. Summer Craig
Mr. Mike Fuqua
Mr. Will Hedges
The Hon. Edith Jones
Mr. John Maclay, Jr.
Mrs. Debbie Robinson
Mr. Milton West

Associate Members

The Hon. James A. Baker, III, *Special Counsel to the Vestry**
Mr. David Harvin, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2025*
Mrs. Beth Reeves, *Senior Council Representative 2023-2025*
Ms. Samantha Hutchison, *Altar Guild President 2024-2025*
Mrs. Shelly Newton, *ECW President 2024-2025*
Mr. Perry Ruthven, *Men of St. Martin's President 2023-2025*
Mr. John Sutherland, *Usher Representative 2024-2026*

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



Mr. Scott Anderson
Vestry Representative
7 a.m.



Mr. Logan Walters
Vestry Representative
Noon



Mrs. Debbie Robinson
Vestry Representative
6 p.m.

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ *The Head of This Church*



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. Elizabeth A. Miller
Pastoral Assistant
emiller@smec.org



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



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



The Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden
Associate for Christian Education
jhylden@smec.org



The Rev. Gill B. Keyworth
Deacon
gkeyworth@smec.org



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



The Rev. Gregory W. Cross
Curate
gcross@smec.org

PRAYER FOR THE SEARCH FOR ST. MARTIN'S FIFTH RECTOR

Heavenly Father,

As a community of believers, we come together in prayer seeking Your guidance as St. Martin's Episcopal Church continues the search for our fifth rector. May we be blessed with Your Holy Spirit's wisdom and discernment. We especially ask that You guide the hearts and minds of the Search Committee who will be deeply involved in this choice. Lord Jesus, shepherd Your flock with tender care and love. Give us patience as we wait, trusting in Your gracious provision. Guide us, Oh Lord, as we navigate this season of change, knowing that You are with us every step of the way. Our fervent prayer is that You will be done.

With humble expectations, we pray this prayer in Jesus name, who we joyfully serve and love. Amen.

WE INVITE YOU TO
KEEP THIS BOOKLET
FOR REFERENCE.

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

SMEC.ORG

