

MARCH 27, 2022 | 9:00 AM

LOVE, SHARE, & SERVE BOLDLY.

*No matter where you find yourself on your faith journey—join us!
Here you have found a church home where believers congregate to encourage each other and grow spiritually in an abundant relationship with the Lord. At St. Martin's, we promote and value an inclusive fellowship. Whether you are young, old, gay, straight, single, married, partnered—from all walks of life, backgrounds, and cultures—we welcome you!*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

In worship, the Holy Spirit gathers us around the means of grace—the saving Word of God and the sacraments. From the table of communion where Jesus Christ comes with forgiveness, life, and salvation, God sends us out to share the good news and to care for those in need.

*This type of note offers directions about the service. The people's responses are in **bold**.*

We welcome you to our family worship, a casual and reflective service of togetherness. Please feel free to sit and stand as you feel called to throughout the service.



ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

606 W 15TH Street, Austin, Texas | www.saintmartins.org

The service begins with a piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship.

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

J. Wyeth

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME

REFLECTION

The fatuous idea that a person can be holy by himself denies God the pleasure of saving sinners. God must therefore first take the sledge-hammer of the Law in His fists and smash the beast of self-righteousness and its brood of self-confidence, self wisdom, and self-help. When the conscience has been thoroughly frightened by the Law it welcomes the Gospel of grace with its message of a Savior Who came-not to break the bruised reed nor to quench the smoking flax-but to preach glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, and to grant forgiveness of sins to all the captives.

—Martin Luther

GATHERING SONG

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

GREETING

May God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us as we worship today.

Please take a moment to greet those near you.

PRAYER

Let us pray. God of compassion, **even in our wandering, you are with us, and when we return to you, you rejoice. In the waters of baptism, you adopt us as your very own, and no matter the circumstances, you make a place for us at your table. Grant us the grace and strength to do the same for others. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The good news from God, according to Luke.

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons.

¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put

his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

For additional devotion, you may wish to read and reflect on the rest of the assigned lectionary texts for the Fourth Sunday in Lent: Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 32, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

The children come forward for the children's message.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Prayer cards are collected by the ushers during the sermon song. Prayer requests may also be made by sending a text message to prayer@saintmartins.org.

SERMON SONG

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour, I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

PRAYERS

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

Offerings may be placed in the basket in the narthex, or you can donate at saintmartins.org/giving or text "luther" and your gift amount to 73256. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

luther \$100

MUSICAL OFFERING

Come on Up to the House

Tom Waits & Kathleen Brennan

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION *Our communion table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to receive communion regardless of age or denomination. Acolytes will offer hand sanitizer as you pass. You will receive the bread in your hands and the wine by dipping the bread in the bowl. Please consume while walking back to your seat. Gluten free wafers are available if requested. If you prefer to remain in your seat, please pick up a communion cup in the narthex or ask an usher to bring one to you.*

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Let us pray. **Thank you for the gift of your body and blood that strengthens us to be your presence in our world. Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

Oh Happy Day

Edwin R. Hawkins

DISMISSAL

Let's leave here to love, share, and serve boldly. **And give thanks to God.**

POSTLUDE

Oh Happy Day

Edwin R. Hawkins

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Lea Walker-Clark - *preaching/presiding*

Pastor Ellen Williams - *assisting minister*

Pat Larson, Whitney Myers - *communion ministers*

St. Martin's Choir; Katherine Altobello-O'Brien, Tim O'Brien, vocals; Austin Haller, piano and vocals; Darin Layne, guitar; Andrew Fuhrman, drums - *musicians*

Jim Parkhurst - *sound*

Eddie Jennings - *video*

Norm Hummell, chair - *ushers*

ST. MARTIN'S PRAYERS

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Family and friends of Ed Abrahamson; Amanda and children; Wayne Bahr; Bri; Cathy and family and friends; Randy Chambers; Kim Dodigon; Eileen; Paul Elmshaeuser; Henry; Pam Hite; Deborah R. Duncan Hurdle and Malfred Duncan; Jeannine; family of Delores (Dee) Nelson; family and friends of Mary Gordon Spence; Donna Stone; the Ukrainian citizens and refugees and marginalized communities; all people.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR

Terry Adcock; Bob Aus; Emily Berggren; Travis Bohmann; Patricia Byous; Eleanor and Dave; Ellen; Sam Gourley; Dean Haynie; Ronnie Johnson; Peter Jordahl; Betsy Knauff; Walt Knauff; Arvid Larson; Pat Larson; Doris McGaughy; Helen Pegg; Jeff Puskos; Betty Staehr; Christie Tietjen.

MARCH BENEVOLENCE: SAFE ALLIANCE

The SAFE Alliance is a Central Texas nonprofit committed to providing safety, stability, and healing to anyone who has experienced violence and abuse. Locally, we provide housing, support services, and prevention programs to stop the cycle of violence. Globally, we engage in conversations that shape a culture free from violence and abuse. Learn more at safeaustin.org.

SAFEline is a 24-hour confidential hotline for people seeking help with sexual or domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, or parenting support and is available by phone at 512.267.SAFE (7233), by text at 737.888.7233, or by online chat at safeaustin.org/chat.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week at St. Martin's

Sunday, March 27

9:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Faith Formation Hour
11:00 am Holy Communion

Monday, March 28

7:30 pm Heart & Mind Gospel Study

Tuesday, March 29

9:00 am WELCA Tack & Pack

Wednesday, March 30

1:00 pm Pastor's Book Class
6:30 pm Lenten Meal provided by Stephen Ministers
7:00 pm Lenten Vespers

Saturday, April 2

8:30 am Mop & Hammer

Sunday, March 27

9:00 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Faith Formation Hour
11:00 am Holy Communion

Food & Fellowship | Please stay after the service today and enjoy conversation, a cup of coffee, and snacks provided by our wonderful volunteers! All bakers and other lovers of great snacks can sign up to help this ministry by bringing food for fellowship after worship. Storebought or homemade, sweet or savory: all snacks welcome! Thank you to all those helping with this ministry of hospitality. To sign up, speak to Abby Adams or email at adams.abigail.m@gmail.com.

***Blessed Are You* | Lenten Vespers**

Join us Wednesdays in Lent for our Lenten Vespers services at 7:00 pm in the Worship Park. We'll sit by the new fire pit as we hear community members reflect on Jesus's powerful Beatitudes and enjoy the beautiful music of the Holden Evening Prayer. Lenten Meals provided by our community will be offered before the service in the Worship Park at 6:30 pm. Please bring your own beverage and a plate for your use to help us reduce the use of paper products.

Easter Lily Sales

The Flower Guild will be selling Easter lilies Sunday March 20 through Sunday, April 10. The cost is \$15.00 each. These will adorn the worship space on Easter Sunday, April 17. Easter lilies may be purchased at church on Sunday mornings or online at saintmartins.org/flowers. Be sure to note on the form or in the memo line online your preferred dedication.

Pancake Breakfast | April 17th, 2022

Save the date for our annual pancake breakfast on Easter Sunday! Come help the high school students raise funds for our summer trips, from Big Bend to Galveston! Part of the St. Martin's Easter Celebration