

AUGUST 6, 2023

10:00 AM

SUMMER WORSHIP



ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

606 W 15TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS

WWW.SAINTMARTINS.ORG

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!*

We welcome you to our Summer 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.

Families with small children may enjoy playing with toys on the Prayground rug in the Narthex. The nursery is open for children 0-5 years. The joyful noise of our young ones is always welcome in this space.

Hearing assist devices are available. Ask an usher for help.

*Notes in italics offer directions about the service. **The people's responses are in bold.***

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

REFLECTION

We share a piece to invite us into consideration of scripture and worship through different voices.

Through the window screen I can see an angle of grey roof
and the silence that spreads in the branches of the pecan tree
as the sun goes down. I am waiting for a lover. I am alone
in a solitude that vibrates like the cicada in hot midmorning,
that waits like the lobed sassafras leaf just before
its dark green turns into red, that waits
like the honeybee in the mouth of the purple lobelia.

While I wait, I can hear the random clink of one fork
against a plate. The woman next door is eating supper
alone. She is sixty, perhaps, and for many years
has eaten by herself the tomatoes, the corn
and okra that she grows in her backyard garden.
Her small metallic sound persists, as quiet almost
as the windless silence, persists like the steady
random click of a redbird cracking a few
more seeds before the sun gets too low.
She does not hurry, she does not linger.

Her younger neighbors think that she is lonely.
But I know what sufficiency she may possess.
I know what can be gathered from year to year,
gathered from what is near to hand, as I do
elderberries that bend in damp thickets by the road,
gathered and preserved, jars and jars shining
in rows of claret red, made at times with help,
a friend or a lover, but consumed long after,
long after they are gone and I sit
alone at the kitchen table.

And when I sit in the last heat of Sunday, afternoons
on the porch steps in the acid breath of the boxwoods,
I also know desolation. The week is over, the coming night
will not lift. I am exhausted from making each day.
My family, my children live in other states,
the women I love in other towns. I would rather be here
than with them in the old ways, but when all that's left
of the sunset is the red reflection underneath the clouds,
when I get up and come in to fix supper,
in the darkened kitchen I am often lonely for them.

In the morning and the evening we are by ourselves,
the woman next door and I. Still, we persist.
I open the drawer to get out the silverware.
She goes to her garden to pull weeds and pick
the crookneck squash that turn yellow with late summer.
I walk down to the pond in the morning to watch
and wait for the blue heron who comes at first light
to feed on minnows that swim through her shadow in the water.
She stays until the day grows so bright
that she cannot endure it and leaves with her hunger unsatisfied.
She bows her wings and slowly lifts into flight,
grey and slate blue against a paler sky.
I know she will come back. I see the light create
a russet curve of land on the farther bank,
where the wild rice bends heavy and ripe
under the first blackbirds. I know
she will come back. I see the light curve
in the fall and rise of her wing.

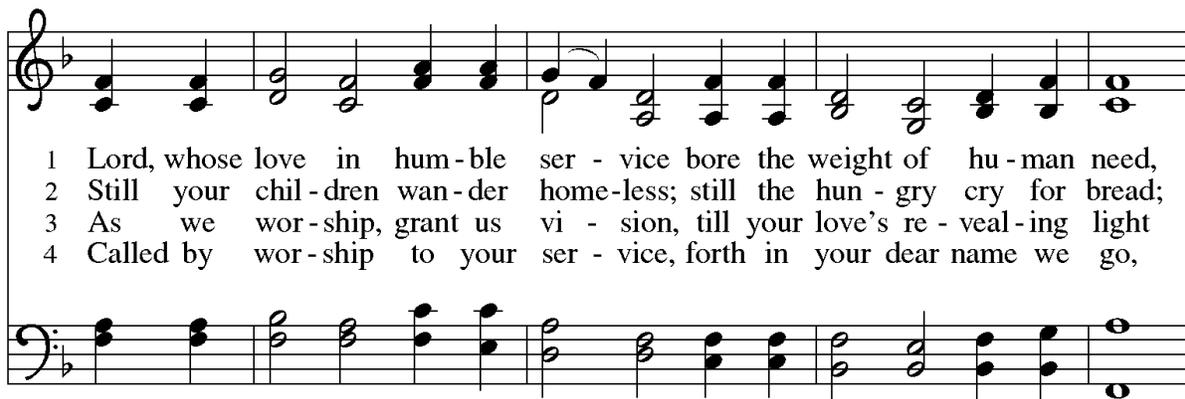
GATHERING HYMN

ELW 712

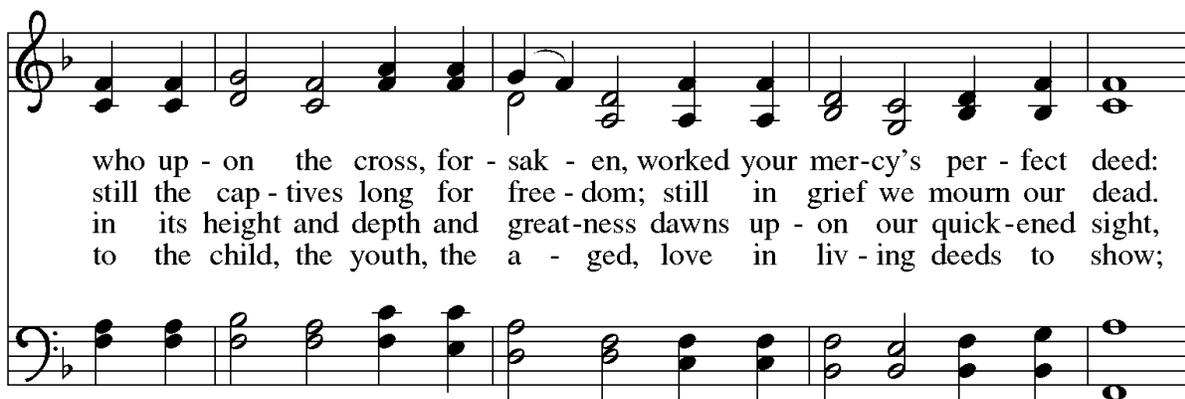
Please stand as you are able.

LORD, WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE

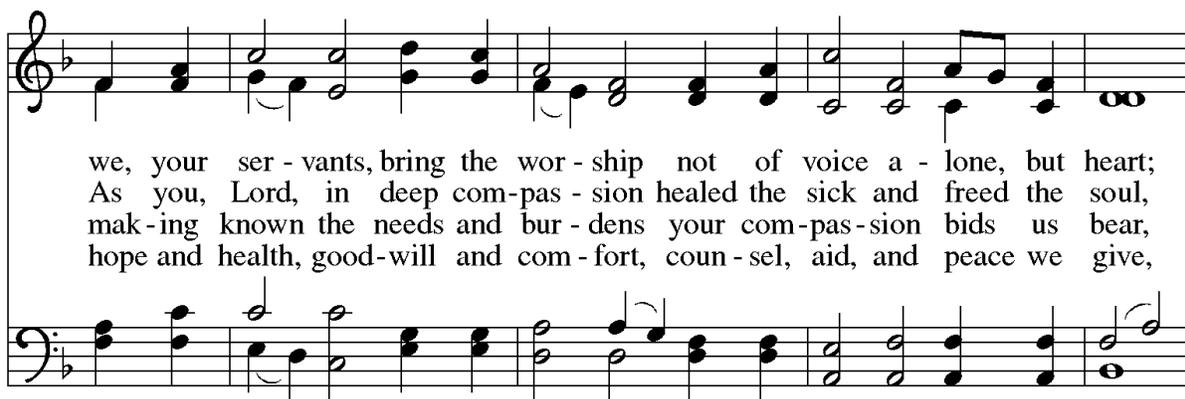
BEACH SPRING



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

GREETING

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

Amen

PRAYER

Let us pray. **Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

READING

RUTH 1:6-18

Then [Naomi] started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you,
to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people
and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die,
and there will I be buried.
May the Lord do thus to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14:13-21

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the

Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SONG

Please be seated. Children are invited to come forward for the children's time with the Pastor.

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

CONVERSE

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer! Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear— all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!"

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

The St. Martin's Strategy Task Force has been meeting over the past four months to propose strategies for the future of St. Martin's. In their studies, the Task Force came to understand the importance of acknowledging the longings, losses, and loneliness we have all experienced over the past few years.

Today we are listening to the experiences of our neighbors from the Bible and from our community. After listening to these stories, you are invited to use this space to write about a longing or loss you are experiencing now or have experienced in the past few years.

If you would like to share this story with the Strategy Task Force for consideration as proposals are developed for the future of St. Martin's, please place it in the offering plate. *Your story will not be shared outside the Task Force without your explicit permission.* Please include your name if you are willing to receive a follow-up by the Task Force.

Sharing about longings and losses can be emotionally difficult. Stephen Ministers are here to provide confidential support and encouragement. They will be available at the healing prayer station during communion and after the service to talk with you.

During the sermon time you will be given time to write on this question:

How have I experienced loneliness, longing and loss recently?

OPTIONAL

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

YES/NO I am willing to accept a call to talk about my experiences of loneliness and loss.

If you would like to share questions or comments with the Strategy Task Force email strategy@saintmartins.org

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand to sing as you are able.

Prayer cards, which can be found in the pew pockets, are collected by the ushers during the hymn. Prayer requests may also be sent via email or text message to prayer@saintmartins.org.

WHEN THE POOR ONES: *CUANDO EL POBRE*

EL CAMINO



1 Cuan-do el po-bre na-da tie-ne y aún re-par-te,
1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;
2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;
3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;
4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed ya-gua nos da,
when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;
when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;
when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;
when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



cuan-do el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:
when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing;
when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us:
when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:
when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

Refrain / Estribillo



Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;
We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.
we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition ends with: God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please greet each other, saying "Peace be with you" or similar

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE

IN BABILONE



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.

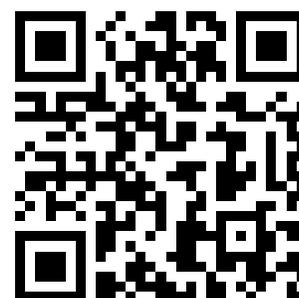
AT THE TABLE REFLECTION

Throughout 2023, members of our congregation share on our Stewardship theme “At the Table”.

Today you heard stories of our neighbors who have experienced the reality of living and working in Austin and you have taken time to reflect on your own experiences. Please take a few moments this week to offer prayers for all who have lost loved ones, relationships, jobs, etc. Remember that God is with you, even when you feel alone.

OFFERING

*St. Martin’s and its ministries are supported
by our offerings of ourselves, our time and our possessions.
Now we give as God has so graciously
given to us. To donate electronically,
go to saintmartins.org/giving or scan the QR code.*



MUSICAL OFFERING

BLESSED ASSURANCE

ARR. MARK HAYES

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

God of the harvest, receive these gifts of the earth and human labor with the offering of our hearts. Feed us with your bread and cup, that we may be signs of your gracious life made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God triune, how majestic...

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer....

we mortals sing our song:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

O God triune, you create the worlds,...

to praise you again:

The earth is full of your glory.

The earth is full of your glory.

Amen, and amen. **Amen, and amen.**

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.**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The people are seated.

Our communion table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to receive communion regardless of age or denomination. You will receive the bread in your hands, please consume and then pick up a plastic cup to receive the wine. Grape juice cups are in the center of each tray. Gluten free bread is available. If you prefer to remain in your seat, please pick up a communion cup in the narthex or ask an usher to let the minister know to bring communion to you.

A Stephen Minister will be in front near the pulpit to offer healing prayer during communion. You are welcome to light a prayer candle in the north transept (left front).



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

ARR. MICHAEL BURKHARDT

TABLE BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you today, tomorrow and always. **Amen**

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Let us pray. **We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to you
To Jesus be true
May God bless you always
Happy Birthday to you!

BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

The peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and your minds
in + Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 480

○ BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN

○ WELT, ICH MUSS DISH LASSEN

1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
 2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
 3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den

giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
 stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
 splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,

with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
 now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
 let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in

plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
 flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
 heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

SENDING PRAYER

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *preaching/presiding*

Lisa Stafford - *assisting minister*

Carey Henderson, Mamie Hickerson - *communion assistants*
- *acolytes*

Virginia Haas - *Stephen Minister*

Tim O'Brien - *Director of Music*

St. Martin's Family Choir

Andrew Fuhrman - organ

Eddie Jennings - *video*

Norm Hummell - *ushers*