

MARCH 10, 2024

9:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



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 Family Worship, a casual and reflective service of togetherness. 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 Playground rug in the Narthex. The
nursery is open for children 0-4 years. The joyful noise of our young ones is always welcome in this space.
Hearing Assistance Devices are available in the Narthex or you can listen through your smartphone. The
ushers are happy to help you.*

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

LENTEN INTRODUCTION

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

PRELUDE

THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

BOB DYLAN

The tower bell rings as we begin worship.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

Please take a moment to say hello to those near you.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

THOMAS DORSEY

In today's reading the Israelites complain to Moses that their situation has grown too dire, and they express a desire to give up and return to Egypt. World-weariness is a feeling to which nearly everyone can relate this Lenten season. After years of topsy-turvy life during the pandemic and its aftermath, the fracture of American political thought, and the sheer number of genuine crises in the world, it can be hard to feel anything but overwhelmed and exhausted.

Thomas Dorsey wrote the lyrics to "Precious Lord" after the tragic death of his wife Nettie Harper and their infant son in childbirth. This beloved hymn is said to have been Martin Luther King Jr.'s favorite. It has an incredible ability to hold and express the most intense spiritual pathos and exhaustion while still offering sincere hope.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Please stand as you are able.

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

WONDROUS LOVE

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.

PRAYER

Let us pray together. **O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

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

READING

NUMBERS 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

CHILDREN'S SONG

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

WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE

SHOWALTER



2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last-ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

CHILDREN'S TIME

MESSAGE

SONG

Please stand 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.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

*Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

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

OCEANS (WHERE FEET MAY FAIL)

MATT CROCKER, JOEL HOUSTON,
SALOMON LIGTHELM

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray together.

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. 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.

Holy God ... pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering ... Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever.

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

Our communion table is open to all. Everyone is welcome to receive communion regardless of age or denomination. Please come forward to receive the bread then pick up a cup to receive wine. 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 let the communion assistants know. A Stephen Minister will be in front at the Prayer Station to offer healing prayer during communion. You are invited to light a prayer candle on the table near the altar.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

LAY DOWN YOUR WEARY TUNE

BOB DYLAN

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 together.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be seated.

The children are dismissed at 9:45am to go to the Chapel.

BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

NEAR THE CROSS

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *preaching/presiding*
- *acolytes*

Ann Howard - *assisting minister*

Pat Larson, Heidi Gibbons - *communion assistants*

Mamie Hickerson - *Prayer Station*

Tim O'Brien - *Director of Music*

Austin Haller - *Associate Director of Music*

Katherine Altobello O'Brien, vocals; Andrew Fuhrman, drums;

Jay Clement, guitar & bass - *musicians*

Mike Kaase - *sound*

Bob Gibbons, Tim Fackler - *ushers*

Ann Henry, Connie Grosskopf, Bill Grosskopf - *Altar Guild*

Penny Davis - *Welcome Center*

Stephanie Schweinfurth - *fellowship snacks*