

MARCH 23, 2025

9:00 AM

THIRD 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.***

INTRODUCTION TO LENT

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

PRELUDE

The tower bell rings as we begin worship.

GATHERING

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

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

HOPE

JASON ROBERT BROWN

Please stand as you are able.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

Amen.

PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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

LUKE 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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.

MY GOD IS SO GREAT!

My God is so great! So strong and so mighty,
There's nothing my God cannot do.

My God is so great! So strong and so mighty,
There's nothing my God cannot do.

The mountains are his, the rivers are his,
The stars are his handiwork too!

My God is so great! So strong and so mighty,
There's nothing my God cannot do for you!

CHILDREN'S TIME

MESSAGE

SONG

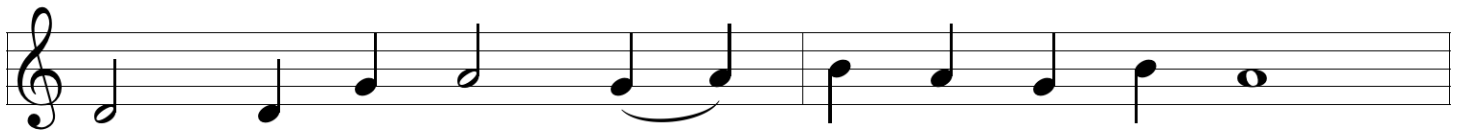
HOPE OF THE WORLD

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.



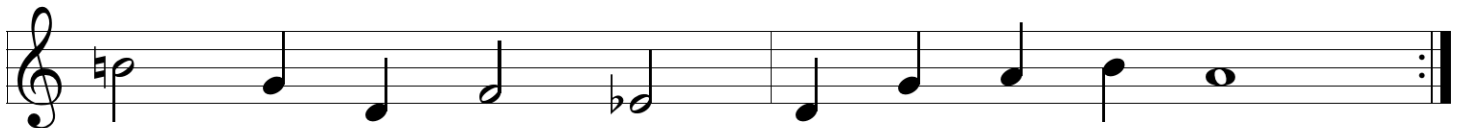
1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
 3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
 4 Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us
 5 Hope of the world, Christ ris'n from death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,
 show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light;
 from death and deep de - spair, from guilt and sin;
 who by this tri - umph con - quered grief and pain,



Save us, your peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
 still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
 walk close be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
 we ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us,
 we would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious:



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
 to heal earth's wounds and end all bit - ter strife.
 lure us a - way from you to end - less night.
 work through our lives to bring your pur - pose in.
 you are our Lord and will for - ev - er reign!

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

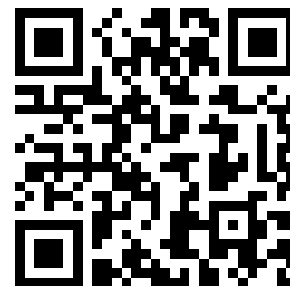
*Each petition ends with: God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.***

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

HIGH HOPES

JIMMY VAN HEUSEN & SAMMY CAHN

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray together.

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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,
our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
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, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
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, pick up a cup, and then stand or kneel at the altar rail to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice cups and gluten free wafers are 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 communion assistants know to bring communion to you. A Stephen Minister will be in front at the Prayer Station to offer prayer for any reason during communion. You are invited to light a prayer candle on the table near the altar.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

ALL MY HOPE

DAVID CROWDER & ED CASH

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 Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

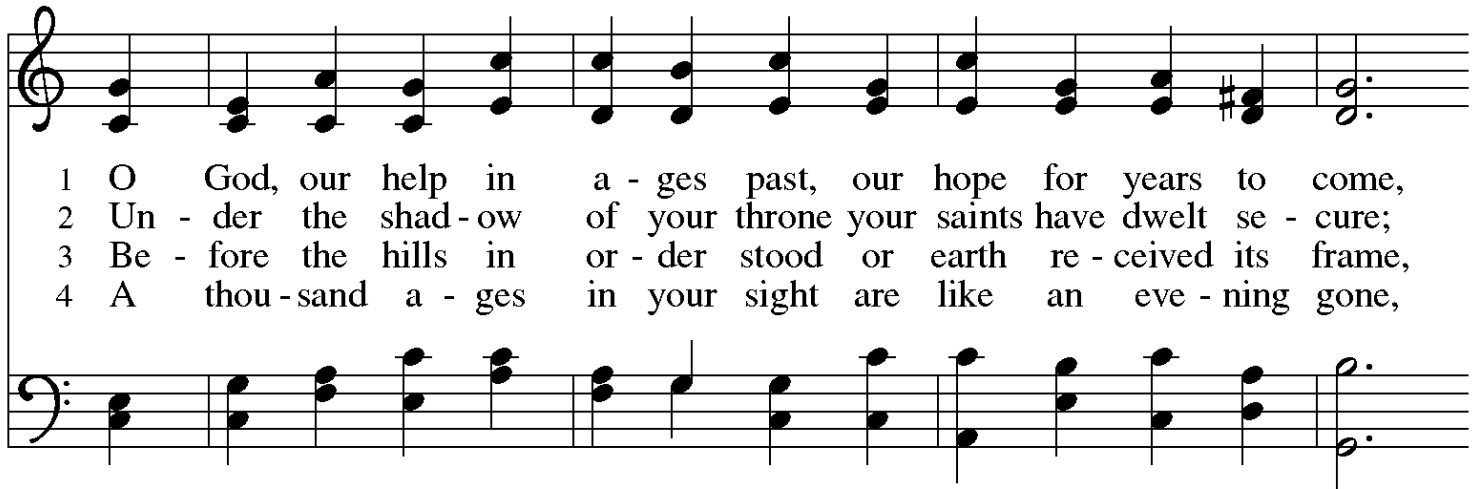
BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

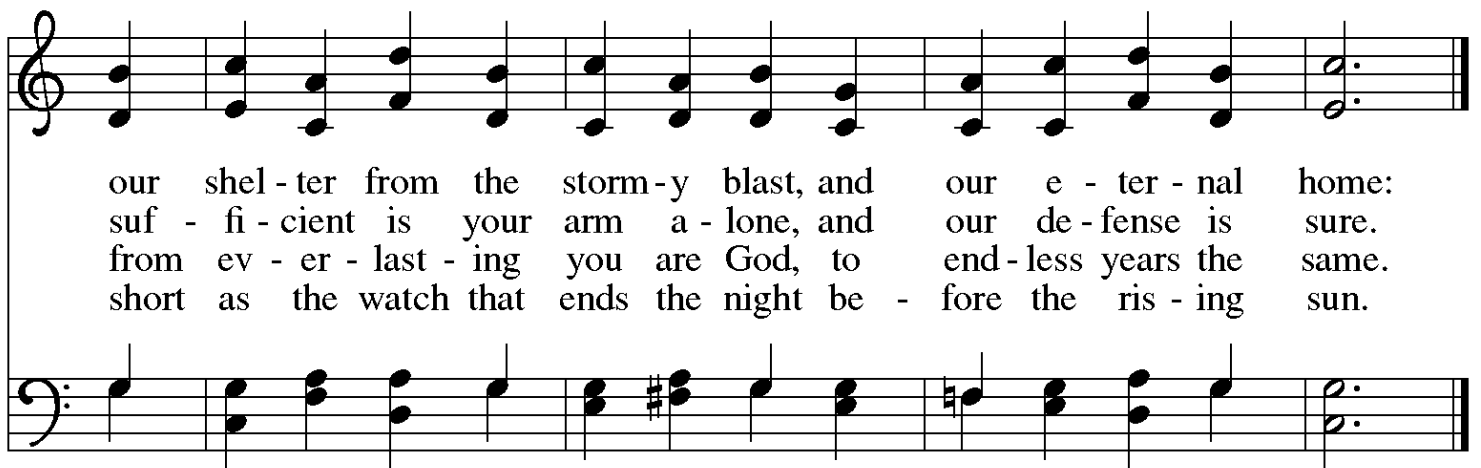
God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
† bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *presiding/preaching*

Bob Gibbons - *assisting minister*

Mamie Hickerson, Pat Larson - *communion assistants*
- *acolytes*

Fred Aus - *Stephen Minister*

Tim O'Brien - *Director of Music*

Austin Haller - *Pianist & Associate Director of Music*

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

Jay Clement, bass - *musicians*

Stephen Ottmers - *video*

Mike Kaase - *sound*

Bill Grosskopf, Connie Grosskopf,

Mike Bruemmer - *ushers*

Sally Gavin - *Welcome Center*

Tom Blomquist, Nancy Schroeder,

Dina Ortiz - *Altar Guild*

Tom Friedrich - *fellowship snacks*