

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Lebanon, Oregon  
Sunday, November 8, 2020 ~ St. Martin's Day



Opening Acclamation  
Collect for Purity  
*Gloria*

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p 355

BCP p 356

**Collect of the Day**

Lord God of hosts, you clothed your servant Martin the soldier with the spirit of sacrifice, and set him as a bishop in your Church to be a defender of the catholic faith: Give us grace to follow in his holy steps, that at the last we may be found clothed with righteousness in the dwellings of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**The First Lesson ~ Isaiah 58:6-12**

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

✠ Hear with the Spirit is saying to God's People

✠ **Thanks be to God**

**Psalms 15: 1-7**

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the LORD.

- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

## **Second Lesson ~ Galatians 6: 1-2**

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

✦ Hear with the Spirit is saying to God's People

✦ **Thanks be to God**

## **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according Luke 18: 18-30 Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

A certain ruler asked Jesus, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.'" He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth." When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" He replied, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God."

Then Peter said, "Look, we have left our homes and followed you." And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

✦ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

✦ **Thanks be to God**

## **Sermon**

The Rev. Canon Neysa Ellgren Shepley

I keep singing this national song over in my head these past days as we wait for vote counts people with coronavirus counts unemployment counts. We are in uncertain and anxious time most assuredly good people. And we have been in difficult times before; times of war and famine, strife, and economic upheaval and yet, here we are, here, still today.

Life was no less chaotic back in St. Martin's time, was it? Back in Europe in the 300's.

Raised in Italy, son of a soldier, Martin served admirably in the Roman army as a young man, then traveled around Europe and settled in France, where he met a Bishop named Hilary and fell in love with Christianity. You know the legend.

Martin was approached by a beggar one night and deeply moved, he took his sword, cut off a part of his military cloak and gave it to the man for warmth. And the next night Jesus appeared in his dream, in that cloak, telling the angels, "Martin covered me with this garment. "

Martin, the good soldier, who eventually became bishop himself, a defender of the faith, Martin was clothed with the spirit of love and sacrificing for others, a strong defender of the poor and helpless and all of God's people. What a wonderful saint to have as your Church name!

Most of us also know the story in our gospel today, the story of the rich young ruler I usually call it. It's about a local official who comes up to Jesus and says "Good teacher, what must I do to deserve eternal life?" Jesus responds, "Why are you calling me good? No one is good, only God. You know the commandments, don't you? No illicit sex, no killing, no stealing, no lying, honor your father and mother. "Yes, I've kept them for as long as I can remember," the official says. That is how I know that is not enough he thinks. I have amassed great wealth, which is how I know that is not enough either. What must I do to inherit eternal life, the kind of life that lasts?

"Then there is only one thing left to do, Jesus says. "Sell everything you own and give it away to the poor. Become free from all your earthly burdens. Then come, follow me." You will have riches in heaven. That was the last thing the official expected to hear. He was very rich and became terribly sad. He was holding on tight to a lot of things and was not about to let them go.

Seeing his reaction, Jesus said, "It is so difficult for people to who have it all to enter God's kingdom. I'd say it's easier to thread a camel through a needle's eye than to get a rich person into God's kingdom." "Then, who has any chance at all?" the others asked. "No chance at all," Jesus said, "if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it."

You see, none of us can earn eternal life, no matter what we do. We can keep the commandments until we are blue in the face, We can sign our paychecks over to the Commission on Poverty and Homelessness and beg for our supper and still not earn a place at God's banquet table. The kingdom of God is not for sale. The poor cannot buy it with their poverty any more than the rich can buy it with their riches. Eternal life in God's realm is God's gift, given to all.

The catch is, you've got to be FREE to receive the gift. You cannot be otherwise engaged. You can't accept God's gift if you have no spare hands to take it with. You can't make room for it if all your rooms are already full. You can't follow Jesus if you are not free to go.

That is why the rich young ruler went away sorrowful. He understood all at once, that he was not free. His wealth was supposed to make him free, But kneeling in front of Jesus, he understood that it was not so. Invited to follow Jesus, he went away sorrowful instead, For he had homes and property that he had inherited by law, great possessions that he did not want to let go of, but preferred to lug around with him like a huge weight around his neck.

We, like the rich young ruler and St. Martin, are called to sell what we can and distribute the money to the poor. We are called to do this in different ways at different times of our lives, personally, and in community. Each one of us, working in some way for God's dream of the beloved community, for

the common good, for the land of the free and the home of the brave. All of us called to freely bear one another's burdens and in this way fulfill the way of Christ. Getting distracted by money and wealth and the glitter of life distracts us from the solid core of what Jesus calls us to be and to do for others in our lives on earth so we will have treasure in heaven.

I write this sermon before the presidential elections is decided. Regardless of which political party wins election in this country, our core Christian work remains the same. We are meant to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit prisoners. We must pray for our enemies and work for peace. We must love one another as Christ has loved us. There is an abundance of life that cannot be possessed or held on to, but only shared. Indeed, sharing what we have is the only way to be free, To be able to follow Jesus, to inherit God's gift of eternal life.

Sing "Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring." **Amen**

### The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

**Prayers of the People, Form I**

BCP p 384

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."  
For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us  
pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all  
peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For this city, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to  
the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For reasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray  
to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air [or through outer space], let us pray to the  
Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us  
pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives,  
and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the  
Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

In the communion of St. Martin and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.  
*To thee, O Lord our God.*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, all the blessings of this life, especially for St. Martin, for our veterans, and for the people of St. Martin's Lebanon.

### **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,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Pray for Social Justice**

BCP 260

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **Dismissal**

BCP p 366

### **Thanks be to God!**