

Sunday 14 April 2024

St Martin



St Martin was born between 590 and 600. He is also known as Martin the Confessor. He was a monk belonged to the order of St Basil. His biographer Theodore adds that Martin was of noble birth, commanding intelligence, and of great charity to the poor.

Martin was bishop of Rome from 21 July 649 until his death. He served as Pope Theodore I's ambassador to Constantinople and was elected to succeed him as pope. He was the only pope during the Eastern Roman domination of the papacy whose election was not approved by an imperial mandate from Constantinople. He so strongly opposed a contemporary heresy, 'monothelism', that the emperor Constans II had him arrested and exiled to Constantinople, then banished permanently.

Martin is considered a saint and martyr by both the Catholic Church and his own, host Church, the Eastern Orthodox. He died on 16 September 655.

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Liturgy and prayers of intercession © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

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The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

The hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [Amazing grace](#)

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Alleluia Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Preparation

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind,

and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Therefore, knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Collect for St Martin

Eternal God,
you called Martin to proclaim your glory
in a life of prayer and pastoral zeal:
keep the leaders of your Church faithful
and bless your people through their ministry,
that the Church may grow into the full stature
of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the book of Psalms

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; ♦
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord; ♦
let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 O magnify the Lord with me, ♦
and let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me, ♦
and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
- 6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, ♦
and was saved from every trouble.

7 The angel of the Lord encamps ♦
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

8 O taste and see that the Lord is good; ♦
happy are those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 34:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. 'Go, stand in the temple courts,' he said, 'and tell the people all about this new life.'

At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people. When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, 'We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.' On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

Then someone came and said, 'Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.' At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

Acts 5:17-26

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All **Glory to you O Lord.**

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God. *John 3:16-21*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Today's Gospel passage contains one of the most famous and oft-quoted verses in the whole of Scripture, 'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' It's a favourite because it offers hope and also gives advice on ways to live that achieves the goal of that hope, which is gaining eternal life

Christians don't adopt a faith in order to avoid a physical death but to avoid a death that's a complete and utter end. That's what the word 'perish' means in the context of this famous verse. Stated another way, while our physical bodies die at the end of our lives our souls continue to exist, *if we believe*. And we believe that a human soul somehow condenses the essential character and make-up of the person we once were, and it's that part of us that survives death in order to live with God. This hope explains why faith matters and therefore why our believing in him is important ... indeed, has eternal consequences.

Our soul achieves eternal life if we believe in this 'one and only Son.' Unfortunately, the phrase 'believe in' is not quite so clear. There is a spectrum of belief from 'saying that he existed two thousand years ago' through 'acknowledging that he did wonderful things when he was alive' and includes 'advocating that Jesus was not just human but also God's Son'. The word 'believe' means all these things. But none of them can explain how they lead to the eternal survival of a human soul.

Elsewhere in Scripture, the word ‘believe’ never means something that happens only in a human mind or memory. It means something that leads to a new commitment: for example, Abraham believed and in consequence emigrated from his long-term home; Jonah believed God and went as a missionary to Nivevah; St Paul believed and turned his life upside down—he changed from a persecutor of Christians to being their champion. To believe in a person or thing or hope always means there’s a consequence.

We must be willing to be changed by our beliefs; this way of thinking requires noting less. In effect, our ‘belief in Jesus’ means we will end up as a different person from the whoever we were when we first started believing in him. Part of that hope is bound up in that desire to be different.

‘Believing in Jesus’, then, is all about allowing ourselves to be changed into someone so different that our soul is worth preserving for eternity. We ‘die to self’. God Himself will accept our soul when our bodies die and treasure that soul forever. To paraphrase, ‘if we die before he die, then we will not die when we do die’: dying to self means the survival into eternity of our soul. The only price is to adapt in such a way that we acknowledge that Jesus is God’s only Son.

Viewed this way, the whole concept of believing in God’s one and only Son distils into a neat, manageable idea. We must attempt to be like Jesus and obey whatever he says. To re-phrase John 3:16, ‘God’s love is so intense that he wants the soul of every single being to spend eternity with him. To that end, all he asks is that they sincerely try to mimic their lives on Jesus.’

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**

Prayers of intercession

Heavenly Father, in every age you raise up pastors and leaders for your Church to reflect the light of Christ and to lead us in the way of holiness. We thank you for those who have been shepherds of your flock: bless your Church today with gifts of care and nurture, give a pastoral heart to bishops, priests and deacons, and strengthen all who are called to be leaders of your people. Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you for the gifts of grace in the life of Saint Martin: give wisdom and insight to all in authority in Church and state, that they may use their power for good and the benefit of those over whom they are set. Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you for those pastors and doctors of the soul whose influence is hidden from the world: bless them in their quiet guidance of those who seek after your holiness and truth. Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you for those who give pastoral care to the sick and the suffering: help those who are distressed through following bad advice. Have mercy on those whose lives lack purpose or direction and bring them the care they need for wholeness and healing. Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

We thank you for all who have worked to lead others into the way of truth and are now at rest:

grant us in this life the spiritual guidance and pastoral care that will lead us to eternal life.

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Father, make us worthy of everlasting joy in the fellowship of Martin and all your saints in the glory of your kingdom, where you live and reign, God for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The peace

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God, through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace to those who were far off and those who were near.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 O happy day

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

**HYMN 4 For all the saints
For all the saints**

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)
[\(instrumental version\)](#)

The Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God the Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

Alleluia Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
And now we give thanks, most gracious God,
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses
and glorified in the assembly of your saints.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
We, your holy Church, acclaim you.
In communion with angels and archangels,
and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven,
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with St Martin and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

God, shepherd of your people,
whose servant Martin revealed the loving service of Christ in his ministry as a
pastor of your people:
by this eucharist in which we share
awaken within us the love of Christ
and keep us faithful to our Christian calling;
through him who laid down his life for us,
but is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever.

All **Amen**

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.