

First Sunday in Advent

December 1, 2024 – 10 a.m. Eucharist



YOU ARE A BLESSING

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

All are welcome
and fed with the love of God
pets too!

Lectionary Readings and Music

Prelude

Opening Hymn: O come, O come Emmanuel

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The reading concludes

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *

let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

²Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁵Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

⁹All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may

he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The reading concludes

Lay Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

People’s Response: Praise to you, Lord God

Presentation Hymn: The King Shall Come when Morning Dawns (73) vs 1-4

Communion Hymn: We, the Lord's people (51)

Final Hymn: Rejoice, rejoice believers (68)

Community Prayer List

Please pray for: Bob & Diane Rogalcheck, Nancy Modrow, Amanda Vandervort, Nancy Schaper, Tom Beechey, Ann Davis, Heidi Partain, Mark and Mary Savage, Laura Wolff, Sarah, Joan Soske, Curt Van Peenan, Ellie, Greg & John Rasmussen, Nicole Cortino, Jessica Webb, Charles Sterner, Raggles - the dog, David Broderson & Jan Langdon, Nancy Fornoff, Janice Dahlstrom and the Rodriguez and DeBock Families.

For the members of the Des Plaines Chronic Pain Group.

For all who are suffering because of recent natural disasters, particularly those effected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, as well as human tragedies, especially the carnage in the Holy Land, for refugees, all who are affected by gun violence, systemic racism, and everyone impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

For all Veterans and those currently serving in the military, especially: Oriana & Richardson Naki, William Revell, Mike Bozza, Ben Suecheck, Ryan Staats, Zachary Kielar, Michael Webb, and Jimmy Pham, and all who serve in any military, those wounded in action, and all in harm's way.

For the Saint Martin's Church and Vestry.

For those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week.

For those who grieve the recent death of loved ones.

Jose Rodriguez III
12 members of the Des Plaines Chronic
Pain Group who took their own lives

Announcements

There are no coffee hosts today.

Coffee Hour Hosts are needed for December. A new sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in Strauss-Betker Hall for available weeks.

A Remembrance

Today we help Robyn Lochirco and her family remember her brother, Joseph Cogan, who passed away on October 19. Joseph was a US Army Special Forces Medic in Vietnam and later became a physicians assistant, helping veterans with their medical care. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Every year, every month, every day, every minute. Every time is Suicide prevention time.



Craft Show Wrap Up

Saturday is over. The booths have been cleaned up; the floors swept, but the most important work is left to do. Thank you, thank you, thank you to the best dream team in the world. Helayne did an amazing job behind the scenes helping coordinate applications and payments. Chef Duane and Maria did an amazing job in the church serving up so much tasty food. Dee, Robert and Nancy Modrow helped with raffle sales and crowd control. Monica Brunson was the best table sitter ever. Bryan did a great job of making sure we were prepped. The most thanks, the kudos, the standing ovation needs to go to Denise. I can't even think of all the thanks. She helped get the chairs and tables set out, dealt with interior vendor concerns and even a broken potty with such grace and love for the community. The church could never have made \$1,086 without this team. It was a pleasure to be in the company of these amazing parishioners. Amanda



Creating holiday messages

Sunday, December 15 11:00 am

Molly Pinta, of Buffalo Grove was in 7th grade when with her mother, Carolyn, she helped to create the first Buffalo Grove Pride Parade. She was then inspired by a Facebook group called "Home for the Holidays", which provides a safe space for LGBTQ+ people who can't actually, go home for the holiday. In November of 2022 Pinta created a spreadsheet with members from the group who wanted to receive holiday cards, set up card writing parties and added information to her own website, the Pinta Pride Project, for anyone who wanted to take part. By November of 2022, she had amassed and sent out 2,134 cards. In 2023 cards rolled in at such a rate that they were able to send out over 10,000.



This year, I am asking St. Martin's to participate in this campaign. There is no cost for us to participate unless you would like to donate some stamps. This is the time to bring your unused Holiday cards from home. (I have 60 o! them!).

Join me on December 15 during coffee hour after service to write notes in cards for our friends for whom "home for the holidays" is not an option.

If you would like to read more about this, check the link below. This is Heidi Stevens story from this past Sunday Chicago Tribune.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/11/15/heidi-stevens-balancing-act-holiday-letters-for-lgbtq/>



Episcopal Parish Network

Finding Growth Opportunities Outside the Traditional Church Model

Tuesday, December 3 at 3PM EST



Join this workshop which teaches churches to creatively use their spaces for mission and financial growth. By hosting community events, educational programs, and partnerships, churches can generate income and strengthen community bonds, attracting a broader audience and expanding their mission, making their space a vibrant hub for faith and connection.

Online Learning Opportunities



Episcopal Parish Network



AFRECS

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans

Crisis in the Sudans: Action Needed to Save Lives

Tuesday, December 10 at 3PM EST



Join EPN and AFRECS in this workshop which addresses the crisis in Sudan and South Sudan, where violence and displacement have devastated millions. Featuring Sudanese and American experts, it will examine the conflict's roots, humanitarian challenges, and pathways to peace. Attendees will learn how faith communities, including the Episcopal Church, can advocate for justice and support aid efforts.



Episcopal Parish Network



Being Human and Pastoring Toward the Good Life

Wednesday, December 11 at 3PM EST



Join our workshop for a discussion on ethical and pastoral issues from birth to death, helping to fulfill the Great Commission amid contemporary challenges.

Mark Your Calendar

December 4 ~ Advent Series

5:30 pm ~ supper / 6:30 pm ~ Holden Evening Prayer

December 5 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Community Holiday Sing-Along

December 8 ~ 10:00 am ~ 2 Advent ~ Morning Prayer

December 11 ~ Advent Series

5:30 pm ~ supper / 6:30 pm ~ Holden Evening Prayer

December 15 ~ 10:00 am ~ 3 Advent ~ Holy Eucharist

December 17 ~ 6:30 pm ~ Vestry

December 18 ~ Advent Series

5:30 pm ~ supper / 6:30 pm ~ Holden Evening Prayer

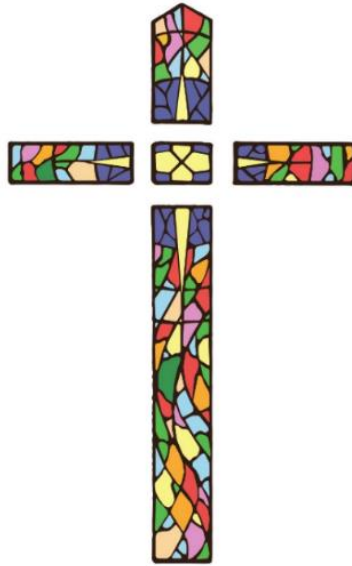
December 20 ~ 7:00 pm ~ Blue Christmas

December 22 ~ 10:00 am ~ 4 Advent ~ Morning Prayer

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

4:30 pm ~ Music / 5:00 pm ~ Festive Eucharist

December 25 ~ 10:00 am ~ Christmas Day Festive Eucharist



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