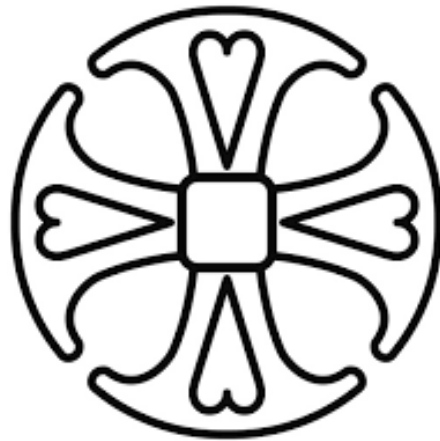


St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Bridgewater, New Jersey



Liturgy of the Word
The Second Sunday of Easter
April 12, 2026
10:30 am

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

We are honored that you are worshiping with us. Whether you have been attending Mass for 50 years, or whether this is your first Sunday- we are glad that you're here.

St. Martin's is a safe space for everyone and a place of prayer for all people.

Children are loved and welcome here. The sound of small voices is a joyful song of praise that reminds us of Christ's resurrection life. Your children are always welcome to sit with you during Mass. However, if you need a "cry room" please feel free to sit in the Lady Chapel. Go through the door next to the crucifix and you will see the Lady Chapel immediately on your left, but please know you and your child are always welcome to remain in the main church to celebrate Mass with all of us. Mass activity bags are available for children to use during the Mass, if you desire. You can find them in the narthex as you enter. Please return them after Mass for re-use.

St. Martin's is also a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community. We love, welcome, support and affirm you and your family. You and your children are welcome to fully participate in parish life and to receive all of the Sacraments. Let us know your pronouns and we will strive to name you as you wish to be named. (Please be patient with us: many of us are still learning).

Restrooms

You may enter the door next to the crucifix and find the restroom down the end of the hall on the left hand side. It is a single restroom that anyone may use.

Holy Communion

You are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood if you desire it. Jesus Christ offers grace to you in Holy Communion and we will not turn anyone away from Christ's healing grace. To receive communion, place one hand over the other and the priest or deacon will place the precious body of Christ in your hand: you should consume it then. A Eucharistic Minister will follow with a chalice. If you wish to receive the precious blood of Christ, grasp the base and assist the chalice to your lips.

What is the Liturgy of the Word?

When a priest or deacon is not available to preside, a lay person may officiate using the Liturgy of the Word- the first half of of the Mass.

Opening Hymn: *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

Blue Hymnal, 193

Leader: +Alleluia, Christ is Risen.

All: *The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!*

Gloria

*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.*

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.* Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Please be seated.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.” The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 16 **Conserva me, Domine**

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."
All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
But those who run after other gods * shall have their troubles multiplied.
Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; * it is you who uphold my lot.
My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; * indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; * my heart teaches me, night after night.
I have set the Lord always before me; * because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; * my body also shall rest in hope.
For you will not abandon me to the grave, * nor let your holy one see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life; * in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

A Reading from the First Epistle of Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

A Reading from the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

(Please remain seated. The normal responses are ommitted)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

The Nicene Creed

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 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.

The Prayers of the People

In hope and gladness, let us pray to God, who gives Life to all.
That our risen Savior may fill us with the joy of his life-giving resurrection:
We pray to the living God. *Hear our prayer.*

That those who lead and those who serve in the Church throughout the world,
especially Sally, our Diocesan Bishop, may be encouraged by Christ's victory:
We pray to the living God. *Hear our prayer.*

That isolated and persecuted churches may find strength in the good news of Easter:
We pray to the living God. *Hear our prayer.*

That those who lack food, work, shelter, or medicine may be blessed with provision:
We pray to the living God. *Hear our prayer.*

That war, famine, and plague may cease in all the world;
We pray to the living God. *Hear our prayer.*

That the light of God's presence may be revealed to the sick, the weak, and the
dying, to comfort and sustain them, especially (*parish prayer list added here*):
We pray to the living God. *Hear our prayer.*

That, according to God's promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection
may be raised on the last day: We pray to the living God. *Hear our prayer.*

Leader: O God, worker of wonders, you made this season for joy and gladness, yet
you also know the needs that weigh upon our hearts: Hear, therefore, the prayers we
bring to you, and grant us grace so to recognize the Risen One in our midst—the
Christ now entered into glory, the firstborn from the dead, who is alive and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace

Deacon: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements from the Vestry

Leader: Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory
Offertory Hymn

Leader: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia.

All: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

Closing Hymn: *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing, 1,4,5* Hymnal 205

SERVING TODAY

Reader: Ben Todoroff

Choir: Alison Jandek, Beth Hixenbaugh, Jane Maloney, Rob Vernon

Organist: Kathy Shanklin Lay Leader: Br. Philip Muniz

Vestry Rep: Br. Philip Muniz