

**Order of Service: January 17, 2021
Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Celebrating the life and ministry
of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

All Saints' Episcopal & Asbury United Methodist

This service is livestreamed on social media and recorded.

The Welcome

Music for Gathering

It Is Well With My Soul

We invite you to gather your body, mind, and spirit into a worshipful state with us this morning.

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Christ our true and only Light: receive our prayers, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no evil desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Looking Up - Asbury Musicians

Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slav-ery, and made them free at last: Grant that your Church, following the example of your prophet Martin Luther King, may resist oppression in the name of your love, and may secure for all your children the blessed liberty of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

1 Samuel 3:1-10

A reading from the first Book of Samuel.

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-13

Read responsively by alternate whole verse.

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 **You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.**
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 **You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.**
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 **For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.**
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

The Reading

Letter from Birmingham Jail

A reading from Martin Luther King’s letter from Birmingham Jail.

I must make two honest confessions to you, my Christian and Jewish brothers. First, I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate.... I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro’s great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Councillor or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to

order than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says, "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by the myth of time; and who constantly advises the Negro to wait until a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection....

There was a time when the church was very powerful. It was during that period that the early Christians rejoiced when they were deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed. In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was the thermostat that transformed the mores of society.

Things are different now. The contemporary church is so often a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. It is so often the arch supporter of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's often vocal sanction of things as they are. But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. I hope the church as a whole will meet the challenge of this decisive hour.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Music at the Sequence

The Gospel

John 1:43-51

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Mark Groover & The Rev. Adrien Dawson

Prayers of the People

Lord, you have shown us your ways of compassion and justice.

Forgive us for being so caught up in our own lives.

Forgive us for not having eyes to see and closing them when we don't want to see.

Forgive us for not having ears to hear and covering them when we don't want to hear.

Forgive us for not knowing you, seeking you, and following you.

Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image. Revive your church. Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.

Jesus, you modeled sacrifice and love for neighbor.

Deliver us from our anemic and self-focused faith practices.

Deliver us from narcissism in our worship practices that center on us and not others.

Deliver us from fear that keeps us from taking risks in order to serve our neighbor.

Deliver us from apathy in our own hearts toward those at the margins.

Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image. Revive your church. Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.

Holy Spirit, you promise to root, strengthen, and guide us.

Fill us with courage to speak out and speak up when we feel weak.

Fill us with assurance that you are working in ways we can't always see.

Fill us with power to act and love and be the church you are making us to be.

Fill us with the wisdom of a gentle dove and a shrewd serpent that we may be effective.

Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image. Revive your church. Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.

Lord, you promised that you are coming back in your fullness to restore and renew.

Help us to be made new now and at your full return.

Help us to confess together, repent together, and hope together for the church.

Help us to live into the reality that we serve a God who will make wrong things right.

Help us point to the coming kingdom with our actions and lives.

Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image. Revive your church. Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.

Holy Trinity of Love, you know that we are built to live in community with each other and with you.

Heal us from the infection of racism and discover the unity that celebrates our diversity.

Teach us to value humility and service as the hallmarks of leadership and may we have a peaceful transition of power in our presidency as president-elect Joseph and vice president-elect Kamala prepare for inauguration.

Equip us with the compassion to care for those suffering with COVID-19, those who have died and those who are grieving. Give us the wisdom to stop the spread of this virus with effective public health and the distribution of vaccines.

Revive your church for the days ahead. Guide our hearts, hands, and feet into action that we will be your partners, bending the arc of history towards justice for all people. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy—for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

At this time, we invite you to share peace with the community in your household, or those with whom you are connected digitally. Hug a family member or furry friend, or text someone dear to you.

Offertory Sentence

Preparation of the Gifts

God Restores

To support the financial mission of All Saints', [use this link](#) or visit allsaintsmd.org and click donate.

To support and learn more about Asbury United Methodist, visit their website at asburyumcfmd.org.

Presentation of the Gifts

The celebrant will consecrate both bread and wine.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING EOW, Prayer 3

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.

The Celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ:

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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.

The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Fraction

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

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The church community gathered in their homes are invited to share and consume the communion bread they have received from the church. If you did not pick up communion bread before the worship service and would like to participate next week, [sign up here](#).

The Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels, and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. We thank you for the Body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and for the offering of Christ's holy presence, the gift of spiritual communion, which feeds us when we must be apart. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we become One Body in the sacrament of Christ's Body. Transform our lives with your life, for the love we share becomes bread for the world. Amen.

An Epiphany Blessing

May God give you grace never to sell yourself short,
The courage to risk something big for something good,
and the wisdom to remember that
the world is too dangerous for anything but truth
and too small for anything but love.
The Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us now and remain with us this day and always. **Amen.**

Music for Sending

Lift Every Voice and Sing - ASEC and Asbury

The community is invited to receive this gift of music, a prayer, sending us out into the world.

The Dismissal

Celebrant We embody the resurrection story. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Let us go forth and journey with resilient faith. Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Stay Calm. Stay Connected. Stay Church.

Join us for our combined All Saints' and Asbury [forum conversation on zoom!](#)

Meeting ID 580 235 166