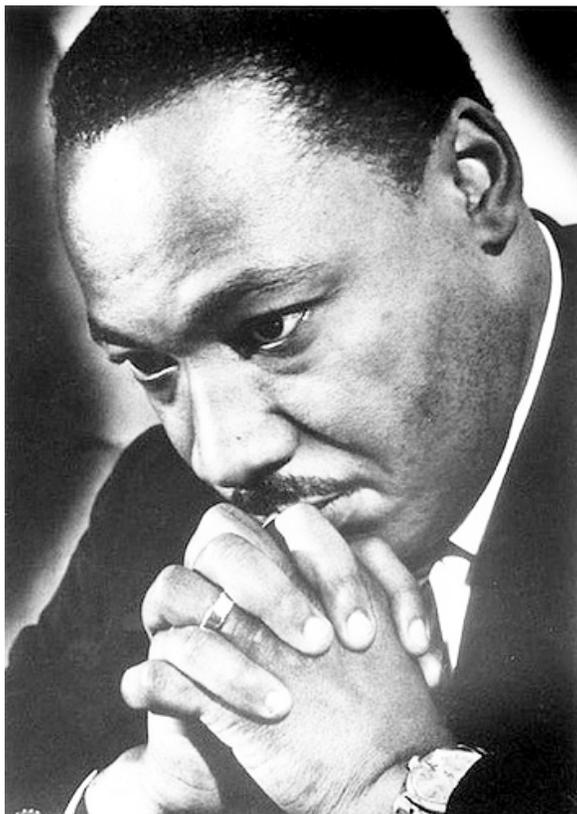


January 15, 2012 – Second Sunday After the Epiphany
Martin Luther King Day Weekend 2012

Although the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has been celebrated as a national holiday in the United States since 1986, the Episcopal Church also commemorates the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., each year on April 4, as part of our liturgical calendar.

Born in 1929, King was serving as a Baptist pastor in Montgomery, Alabama, when tensions erupted over racially segregated buses in Montgomery. After the arrest of Rosa Parks in 1955, for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man, King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Incorporating Mahatma



(Martin Luther King, Jr. cc photo by caboindex, Library of Congress)

Gandhi's teachings of civil disobedience and nonviolence, King emerged as one of the prominent civil rights leaders in the 1950s-1960s, attempting to end racial segregation and racial discrimination in the United States.

In 1963 King helped lead over 200,000 people in the March on Washington, a civil

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rights demonstration rallying Americans of all races for jobs and freedom. It was at this march that King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech.

King became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, and by the time of his assassination in 1968, he had refocused his efforts on ending poverty and stopping the Vietnam War. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1977 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 2004.



(March on Washington, 1963. Wikiphoto by the National Archives and Records Administration)

Collect for Martin Luther King, Jr.

Almighty God, by the hand of Moses your servant you led your people out of slavery, 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.

From *Holy, Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints* (Church Pension Fund. 2010). All rights reserved.

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