

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

The First Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021



Our Mission

is to be the heart and hands of Christ: nourishing people, transforming lives

Our Core Values

May be found on our Web Page

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

February 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

The Word of the Lord

WLP Hymn #825 “Bless the Lord, my soul”

Jacques Berthier and The Taizé Community

(Cantor, All)

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God’s holy name.

Bless the Lord my soul, who leads me into life. *(All repeat.)*



Bless the Lord my soul and bless God’s ho-ly name.



Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in-to life.

Opening Acclamation

Presider: Blessed be the God of our salvation.

***All:* who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

The Confession

Presider: As we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Presider: Most merciful God,

***All:* we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Trisagion S99 “Holy God (*sung 3 times*)

Plainsong, Mode 1; Bruce Ford

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you
All And also with you.
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-9 (*please read responsively at the half verse*)

1 To 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.

- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
**remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness,
O LORD.**
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Second Lesson 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
All **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Holy Gospel Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

Organ Solo "Jesus in the Desert" (*based on Hymn 150*)

James Biery

The Apostles' Creed *said by all, standing*

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

The Prayers of the People

WLP Hymn # 827 "O Lord hear my prayer" (*sung*) Jacques Berthier and The Taizé Community

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.
When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O
Lord hear my pray'r Come and list-ten to me. O

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a series of chords and a single note. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics underneath. The third staff concludes the piece with a 'Fine' marking and a final chord.

Our God is full of compassion and mercy, let us pray:

For the world and its leaders, for our President and our nation,
and for the wellbeing of Creation,
that there may be justice and peace on the earth.
God of integrity, **hear our prayer.**

For Michael and Douglas our Bishops; and David and Nina our Presiding Clergy.
For our fellow members in the diocese of Massachusetts,
and for our ecumenical partners in mission;
and all who minister to the world in the name of Christ.

In the Diocesan cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Marks', East Longmeadow, the Society of the
Companions of the Holy Cross and the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf.
In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa.
God of courage, **hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer from any kind of need or trouble, that they may find comfort and healing.
Especially David , Eileen, Teddy and Noreen.

God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, that they be gathered into your love and life eternal.
Especially Ruth, Francis, the Rev. Marilyle Sweet Page and Joan Hahn

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all that is good and gracious in our lives, we offer our thanksgivings:

"Please offer your intercessions at this time."

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.
When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O
Lord hear my pray'r Come and list-ten to me. O

The Peace

Jesus said to the disciples: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.' *John 14:27*

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider God be with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In fulfillment of his true promise, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, lighting upon the disciples, to teach them and to lead them into all truth; uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith, and giving to your Church the power to serve you as a royal priesthood, and to preach the Gospel to all nations. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (spoken)

**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 people stand or kneel.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider The Living Bread,

People given for the life of the world

John 6:51

The Gifts of God for the People of God

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Let us pray:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Savior;
and the blessing of God Almighty:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,
be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 150 “Forty days and forty nights”

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich

1. Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.
2. Should not we thy sorrow share and from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with thee to suffer pain?
3. Then if Satan on us press, Jesus, Savior, hear our call!
Victor in the wilderness, grant we may not faint nor fall!
4. So shall we have peace divine: holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine, such as ministered to thee.
5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, ever constant by thy side;
That with thee we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

Presider Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior
People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary “Fantasia in G Minor”

Johann Pachelbel

Ministers of the Celebration

PRESIDER

The Rev. David DeSmith

PREACHER

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTOR

Diane Forsyth

PRAYERS

William Frazier

ALTAR GUILD

Marie Sutton, William Frazier

VOCALISTS

Wavelyn Hine

Jeffrey Hine

VIDEO PRODUCTION

MusiChris DJ and Lighting Service

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THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN'S

SUNDAY, February 21

10:00 a.m. Facebook Service
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved
Grab and Go Lunch

FRIDAY, February 26

4:30 p.m. Parish Office Closed
St. Stephen's Table-
Grab and Go

MONDAY, February 22

SATURDAY, February 27

TUESDAY, February 23

SUNDAY, February 28

10:00 a.m. Facebook Service
11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
1:00 p.m. Cathedral of the Beloved
Grab and Go Lunch

WEDNESDAY, February 24

THURSDAY, February 25

4:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Table-
Grab and Go

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

SUNDAY

All persons serving in the armed forces and their families: MAJ Andrew B., CPT Nicholas P., ILT Curran J. D., Lance CPL Chad L., SPC Amanda D., Pvt. Corey F. D., Army Ranger Sean J., Micah H.

St. Mark's, East Longmeadow
Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross
Episcopal Conference of the Deaf

Church of the Province of Central Africa

MONDAY

Diocese of Argentina

TUESDAY

We remember all who need our prayers especially: Timothy A., Clarence D., Ken & Diana E., Cyndi K., Henry L., Christina O., Kevin S., Clara V., Maureen W., Abby, Becca, Betty, Donna, Faye, Fiona, Heather, Jay, Jim, Joan, John, Josh, Judy H., Karen, Keith, Linda, Lisa, Maia, Marilyn, Mary, Melissa & Family, Nancy & Rick, Noreen, Pam, Patrick, Paula, Susan, Barbara, Zeke, Marion, Joe, Roy, Marie, Bob, Walter H., Jill, Barbara A., Jeff S., Shirley, Maryann J. and family, Marion, Charles W. Sydney A., Jeffrey B., Thomas S., Peter, Barbara D., William, Doris, Barbara, Erika, Johnathan W., Nancy G., all who are impacted by the Coronavirus, Pat, Jack, Susan, Frank L., Deane, Tom, David P, Teddy C., Eileen, David W., Michael C.

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of Northern Argentina

WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Argyll & The Isles (Scotland)

THURSDAY

Local Food Programs
Pittsfield City Government
The Governor of Massachusetts

Diocese of Arizona (USA)

FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Caring for Others Team
St. Stephen's Property Team

Diocese of Araucanía (Chile)

SATURDAY

Diocese of the Arctic (Canada)

PARISH NOTICES

WHO ARE WE? St. Stephen's Parish is a community of people who together seek to serve our community, drawing strength and joy from worshipping together. We don't all believe the same, act the same, vote the same, or dress the same – but we strive to love the same, as Christ loved and served all people.

ST. STEPHEN'S TABLE - Gifts in thanksgiving or in memory can be made by sending a donation to the church with the name of the person to be honored or remembered. You can also make a donation online! Just go to our website, select "Support Our Ministries," and follow the prompts to the list of gift opportunities. Select "St. Stephen's Table" and follow the directions. *This week's Gifts to the Table are given in loving memory of Dan Dillon and Virginia Smith.*

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR BEGINS THIS WEEK at 11:00 a.m. following the Facebook service. The link is: <https://zoom.us/j/92912815694?pwd=NEY2NINqbHVyeTNETjlrSG5BcFBzUT09> or go to zoom.us/join and enter meeting ID 929 1281 5694. The passcode is 619428. This link will work every Sunday.

ZION LUTHERAN INVITES YOU TO LENT VESPERS every Thursday evening at 5pm during Lent beginning February 25. Join Pastor Anna and Music Director Amy for a live Zoom Vespers; we will have time for music, prayer, and reflection, as we walk through Lent together. Please email the Zion's office (office@zionlutheranpittsfield.org) for the Zoom link.

WELCOME REV. NINA! Nina began her service at St. Stephen's on February 1st in typical COVID era fashion – virtually. The weather has not made moving any easier but luckily, technology allows for close communication and the wonderful Rev. David DeSmith continues to be on call.

Schedule for February 2021

February 28, 10:00 a.m. Facebook Service

Presider – Rev. David DeSmith or Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

Preacher - Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley

service followed by

11:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour

LIVING GREEN TIP

If the sun is shining, you can take advantage of the radiant heat gain even on cold winter days.

Open your curtains to let the sun in during the day and close them at night to keep in the heat.

(energy.gov)

Cardboard Home: Joan Evans

Paper Toter: Jeff Pringle

MEETINGS HELD AT SAINT STEPHEN'S

All AA and NA meetings remain suspended due to COVID-19

Saint Stephen's

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

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Our Vestry

Erin Sullivan, Co-Warden
Craig Reynolds, Co-Warden
Angela Moon, Clerk
Leah Luczynski, Treasurer

Valerie Andersen
Louise Penney
Mark Miller
John Culver

Chris Plankey
Wendy Coakley

Our Staff

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Dan Moon, Coordinator of St. Stephen's Table
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wfrazier413@gmail.com

Bert Boos, Office Assistant
bboos@ststephenspittsfield.org

Weekday Sextons-Berkshire County ARC Jenell Pullano, Supervisor
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

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