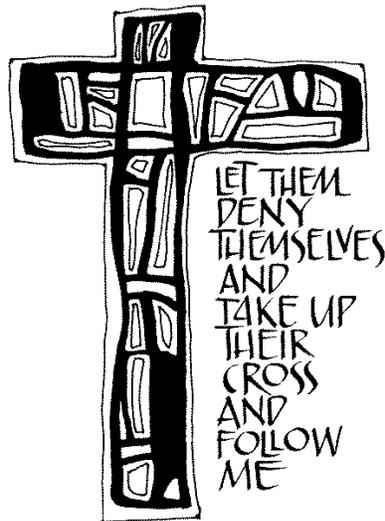


SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

The Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021



M A R K 8 : 3 4

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 28, 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.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

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

Psalm 22: 22-30 *(please read responsively at the half verse)*

- 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.
- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Lesson Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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 8: 31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Meditation following the sermon

Organ Solo “I call to you, Lord Jesus Christ”

J.S. Bach

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

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "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 score includes a repeat sign at the beginning and a "Fine" marking at the end.

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.
David, Eileen, Teddy, Noreen, *Please offer your intercessions at this time.*
God of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, that they be gathered into your love and life eternal.
Especially Ruth, Bradford and Francis and the over 500,000 of our citizens who have died from the
COVID pandemic. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

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**
The Gifts of God for the People of God

John 6:51

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 637 “How firm a foundation”

Lyons

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. “Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.
3. “When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.
4. “When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
my grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.
5. “The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

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

Voluntary “My faith looks up to Thee”

Karl Osterland

Ministers of the Celebration

PRESIDER

The Rev. David DeSmith

PREACHER

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTOR

Donald Phipps

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 28

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

FRIDAY, March 5

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

MONDAY, March 1

SATURDAY, March 6

TUESDAY, March 2

Parish Office closing at 2 pm

SUNDAY, March 7

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, March 3

THURSDAY, March 4

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. Philip's, Easthampton
Reconciliation House, Inc., Webster
Education for Ministry
Episcopal Camps & Conference Centers, Inc.
Episcopal News Service

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

MONDAY

Diocese of Armidale (Australia)

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., Marilyle, Joan H., Michael C.

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of Arochukwu/Ohafia (Nigeria)

WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Aru (Congo)

THURSDAY

Habitat for Humanity in Pittsfield
Department of Mental Health
Government of the United States

Diocese of Asaba (Nigeria)

FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Welcoming Team
St. Stephen's Cooking Team

Diocese of Asante Mampong (Ghana)

SATURDAY

Diocese of Saint Asaph (Wales)

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 by Joan Morrow in loving memory of Ginger Smith and in honor of the birthdays of Diane Forsyth and William Frazier.*

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR 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. 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.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Putting lamps in the corners of rooms takes advantage of two walls to reflect light.. You may not need as many light sources.
(eversource.com)

Cardboard Breakdown
Bottles and Cans Toter:

Susan Wojtasik
John Garinther

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

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

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