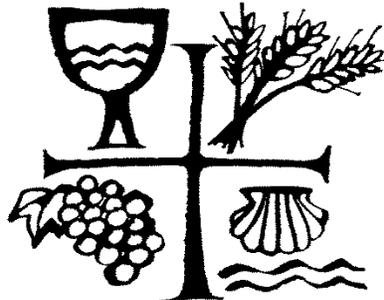


# SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

## The Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14, 2021



E P H E S I A N S 2 : 1 0

IT IS GOD HIMSELF  
WHO MADE US  
WHAT WE ARE  
AND GIVEN US  
NEW LIVES FROM  
J-E-S-U-S C-H-R-I-S-T

### **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

March 14, 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.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Lesson Numbers 21: 4-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

**Psalm 107: 1-3,17-22** *(please read responsively at the half verse)*

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \*  
**and his mercy endures for ever.**
- 2 Let all those whom the LORD has redeemed proclaim \*  
**that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
**from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.**
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*  
**they were afflicted because of their sins.**
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food \*  
**and drew near to death's door.**
- 19 Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, \*  
**and he delivered them from their distress.**
- 20 He sent forth his word and healed them \*  
**and saved them from the grave.**
- 21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his mercy \*  
**and the wonders he does for his children.**
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
**and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.**

**Second Lesson** Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life..

*.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 John

***All* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Holy Gospel** John 3: 14-21

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

**Meditation following the sermon**

**Organ Solo**

"Calvary"

Richard Billingham

**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 image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The second staff ends with a fermata over the final note. The third staff ends with a fermata over the final note and the word 'Fine' written above it.

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

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 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. Paul's Gardner; Cathedral in the Light, Greenfield;  
Chancellor of our Diocese CREDO; Covenant Relationship With the RC Dioceses of Springfield &  
Worcester  
In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Iglesia Anglicana de Chile  
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, Eric and Katelyn, Amelia. *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 Scott 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:

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

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

## 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.**

### **LEVAS Hymn #181**

“Amazing grace!”

*New Britain*

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
4. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun

*Presider* Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior

***People* Thanks be to God.**

### **Voluntary**

“Fugue in D Minor”

Felix Mendelssohn

## Ministers of the Celebration

### **PRESIDER**

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

### **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, March 14**

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

### **FRIDAY, March 19**

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

### **MONDAY, March 15**

### **SATURDAY, March 20**

### **TUESDAY, March 16**

### **SUNDAY, March 21**

### **WEDNESDAY, March 17**

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

### **THURSDAY, March 18**

4:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Table-  
Grab and Go  
5:00 p.m. Zoom Vespers at Zion

## 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. Paul's Gardner  
Cathedral in the Light, Greenfield  
Chancellor of our Diocese  
CREDO  
Covenant Relationship With the RC Dioceses of Springfield & Worcester

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

### MONDAY

Diocese of Aweril (South Sudan)

### 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., Amelia, Rev. Judy J. Eric & Katelyn, Scott

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of Awgu/Aninri (Nigeria)

### WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Awka (Nigeria)

### THURSDAY

The Christian Center  
Congregation of Knesset Israel  
Temple Anshe Amunim  
The Supreme Court

Diocese of Awori (Nigeria)

### FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Participating in Worship Team

Diocese of Ayod (South Sudan)

### SATURDAY

Diocese of Badagry (Nigeria)

## 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 David, Mary and Brenda Adams and Donna Maree, in loving memory of Ruth Wood.*

**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](mailto:office@zionlutheranpittsfield.org)) for the Zoom link.

**LIVING GREEN TIP**

**Use Short Cycles for Washing Clothes:**

Modern washing machines have an "Eco Wash" option you should take full advantage of.

Cardboard-Breakdown  
Bottle and Can Toter

Don Phipps  
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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Joy Mullen, Director of Music  
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Weekday Sextons-Berkshire County ARC      Jenell Pullano, Supervisor  
Sunday Sexton      Roy Stillman

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