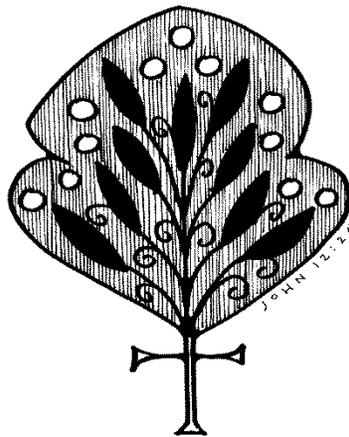


SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 21, 2021



MY DEATH
WILL PROVIDE
A PLENTIFUL HARVEST
OF NEW LIVES

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 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, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm 51: 1-13 (*please read responsively at the half verse*)

1 **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Second Lesson Hebrews 5: 5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience

through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Meditation following the sermon

Organ Solo "Ah holy Jesus"

David Blackwell

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.

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 Grace Church, Great Barrington; Cathedral in the
 Night, Northampton; The Board of Examining Chaplains; The Episcopal Church Foundation
 (ECF); Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church.
 In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church of England.
 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, Ann, *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 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.**

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

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 #441

“In the cross of Christ I glory”

Rathbun

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me: lo, it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds new luster to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.
5. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

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

Voluntary

“Toccata in E Minor”

Johann Pachelbel

Ministers of the Celebration

PRESIDER

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

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, March 21

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 26

4:30 p.m. Parish Office Closed
St. Stephen's Table-
Grab and Go
5:00 p.m. Facebook Service

MONDAY, March 22

SATURDAY, March 27

TUESDAY, March 23

SUNDAY, March 28

WEDNESDAY, March 24

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

THURSDAY, March 25

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.

Grace Church, Great Barrington;
Cathedral in the Night, Northampton;
The Board of Examining Chaplains
The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF);
Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church:

Church of England

MONDAY

Diocese of Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands

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, Ann

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of the Bakuru (Nigeria)

WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Ballarat (Australia)

THURSDAY

Local Food Programs, Pittsfield City Government,
The Governor of Massachusetts

Diocese of Bangor (Wales)

FRIDAY

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

Diocese of Banks & Torres (Melanesia)

SATURDAY

Diocese of Barbados

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. *Gifts this week are given by Cathy Carchedi in Loving Memory of her sister Caroline Bregg.*

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.

PALM SUNDAY - St. Stephen's will offer two options: our regular pre-recorded Service from St. Stephen's, and at 10:00 a.m. a live service in the parking lot across from Zion's Church, with Cathedral of the Beloved and Zion (Palms and Communion)

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

Use A Clothesline

Do your clothes a favour and switch off the dryer. Hang clothes outside to dry naturally. The material will last longer, it will smell and feel fresher.

Cardboard-Home
Paper Toter

Paula Morey
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

Our Staff

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Bert Boos, Office Assistant
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Weekday Sextons-Berkshire County ARC Jenell Pullano, Supervisor
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

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