

**SAINT STEPHEN'S  
PARISH**

**Pittsfield, Massachusetts**

**The Second Sunday  
of Easter**

**April 11, 2021**



*Into joy from sadness*

**Our Mission**

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

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

April 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

## The Word of the Lord

Opening Hymn 208

“The strife is o’er” (*stanzas 1,2,4,5*)

*Victory*

*Antiphon at the beginning and the end – “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”*

1. The strife is o’er, the battle done,  
the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!
2. The powers of death have done their worst,  
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:  
let shout of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!
4. He closed the yawning gates of hell,  
the bars from heaven’s high portals fell;  
let hymns of praise his triumphs tell! Alleluia!
5. Lord! By the stripes which wounded thee,  
From death’s dread sting thy servants free,  
That we may live and sing to thee. Alleluia!

## Welcome

### The Opening Acclamation

*Presider:* Alleluia, Christ is risen!

***People:* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this:  
Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord.  
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,  
with all your mind, and with all your strength.  
The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.  
There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

### The Collect

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*The Collect of the Day*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show

forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 133**

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, \*  
**when brethren live together in unity!**
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head \*  
**that runs down upon the beard,**
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, \*  
**and runs down upon the collar of his robe.**
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon \*  
**that falls upon the hills of Zion.**
- 5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: \*  
**life for evermore.**

The Second Lesson 1 John 1:1-2:2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life-- this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us-- we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

**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 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*Presider*       The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Organ Solo

"We walk by faith and not by sight"

James Biery

Our Affirmation of Faith, Form I

The Nicene Creed

\*\*This text of the Nicene Creed omits the phrase 'and the Son' in the third paragraph, recovering the original text of the First Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, 325 and 381CE respectively.

*Presider:* Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father. \*\*  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

Prayers of the People

*(adapted from Common Worship, Church of England)*

In faith and hope we pray:

For the Church of God, that She may be filled with truth and love,  
and work for justice and mercy for all of your Creation.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Douglas our Bishop, for Nina our Rector,  
and all who minister to God's people.

Risen Christ:

**strengthen us to witness to your love.**

For the peace of the world,  
that a spirit of respect may grow among nations.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice,  
and promote the dignity of every person.

For those who suffer due to violence, poverty, or natural disaster;  
may all in need of refuge find relief and safety.

Risen Christ:

**teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.**

For our congregation and communities;  
that we may be attentive to one another,  
and responsive to the needs of the world.

For our friends and families, those we love;  
for those who wish us harm, and any whom we have injured or offended.  
Risen Christ:  
**may we reflect your love to the world.**

For those whom you have entrusted to our prayers; Michael T., David W., Noreen R.  
*(please add your own intercessions)*  
Risen Christ:  
**grant them joy, peace, and health.**

For all who have died, Maria Patricia Tuck, William Evans, Francis Groleau,  
that they may know God's love and life eternal.  
*(please add your own intercessions)*

As we commend ourselves, and one another to God's love and mercy,  
Risen Christ:  
**send us forth to love as you love us.**

*Presider:*

Concluding Collect

Loving God, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive in our world, our Church  
and our hearts. Receive our prayers, restore and strengthen us in newness of life, and teach our  
hearts to live in you. **Amen.**

The Confession

If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation -  
Behold, all things have become new!  
Let us confess our sins, seeking a new life of grace.  
*Silence is kept.*

*cf 2 Corinthians 5:17*

**O God of our Salvation,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbor  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The Absolution

*(Enriching Our Worship)*

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.**

The Peace

*Common Worship*

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*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Eucharistic Prayer for Eastertide

*(Eucharistic Prayer IV,*

*The Scottish Episcopal Church, adapted)*

*Presider:* God be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to our God.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

*People:* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider:*

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being. Your power sustains us, your love restores our broken world. Creating God, you are unceasingly at work, bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with life. Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. Jesus lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love. As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by Christ who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Presider continues:*

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Gracious God, for by the Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned the one whom they loved was not lost to them. Jesus is with us now in every place for ever.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, at supper with his disciples Jesus took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

*Presider:* So, as we do what he told us,

*People:*       **we open our hearts to him;  
                  we remember how he died  
                  and rose again to live now in us.**

*Presider:* Together with him we offer you these gifts:

*People:*   **in them we give you ourselves.**

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that they may be the Body and Blood of your Son. Kindle the fire of your love in us, and renew us for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body, to live and work to your praise and glory; that we may grow together in unity and love and at the last, in your new creation, may we join the company of apostles, prophets, and all our brothers and sisters living and departed. All this we ask through our Redeemer, 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 forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
          hallowed be thy Name,  
          thy kingdom come,  
          thy will be done,  
          on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
          as we forgive those  
          who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
          but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
          and the power, and the glory,  
          for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fraction Anthem

“Alleluia”

George Nesbit

**The Invitation**

*Presider:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**A Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

*All:*       **Risen Christ,  
          while we cannot receive your Body and Blood physically,  
          we entreat you to be spiritually present with us in this communion,**

and in all that we do.  
Be our companion in the way,  
kindle our hearts, and awaken hope,  
that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture  
and the breaking of the bread.  
Now, send us forth into the world  
to live the good news we proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing, Form II**

May the God of peace  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep,  
by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
equip you with everything good that you may do God's will,  
working in you that which is pleasing in God's sight,  
through Jesus Christ;  
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Dismissal**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in our Risen Savior.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Voluntary**

“Christ the Lord is risen today”

Robert Powell

## Ministers of the Celebration

### PRESIDER

The Rev. Dr. Nina Randive Pooley

### LECTOR

Donald Phipps

### PRAYERS

William Frazier

### ALTAR GUILD

Marie Sutton, William Frazier

### VOCALISTS

Sarah Novak, *soprano*  
Wavelyn Hine, *alto*

Jeffrey Hine, *tenor*  
Robert Szczepaniak, *bass*

### VIDEO PRODUCTION

MusiChris DJ and Lighting Service

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN'S

### SUNDAY, April 11

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

### FRIDAY, April 16

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

### MONDAY, April 12

### TUESDAY, April 13

7:00 pm Zoom Vestry

### SATURDAY, April 17

5:00 p.m. Sunday's Online Service  
Available

### WEDNESDAY, April 14

### THURSDAY, April 15

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

### SUNDAY, April 18

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

## 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, Holyoke  
Latino/Hispanic Ministries  
Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue  
Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF)  
Forward Movement Publications  
The peace of Jerusalem

### MONDAY

Diocese of Belize

### TUESDAY

*We remember all who need our prayers especially:*

Timothy A., Clarence D., Ken & Diana E., Cyndi K., Henry L., Christina O., Clara V., Maureen W., Abby, Becca, Betty, Donna, Faye, Fiona, Heather, Jay, Jim, Joan, John, Josh, Judy H., Karen, Keith, Lisa, Marilyn, Mary, Melissa & Family, Nancy & Rick, Noreen, Pam, Patrick, Paula, Susan, Marion, Joe, Roy, Marie, Bob, Jill, Barbara A., Jeff S., Shirley. 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, Eileen, David W., Michael C., Amelia, Eric & Katelyn, Scott, Ann P., Ernest W., family of Francis Groleau, Michael T.

Those with mental health issues

Diocese of Bendigo (Australia)

### WEDNESDAY

Diocese of Benin (Nigeria)

### THURSDAY

The Elizabeth Freeman Center  
Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations  
Members of Congress

Diocese of Bentiu (South Sudan)

### FRIDAY

St. Stephen's Teaching and Learning Team  
St. Stephen's Parish Life Team

Diocese of Bermuda

### SATURDAY

Diocese of Bethlehem (USA)

## 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*

### ZOOM COFFEE HOUR at 11:00 a.m.

The link is: <https://zoom.us/j/92912815694?pwd=NEY2NINqbHVycTNETjlrSG5BcFBzUT09> or go to [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join) and enter meeting ID 929 1281 5694. The passcode is 619428.

### LIVING GREEN TIP

**Looking for ways to cut down on food waste?** Here are two from greatist.com: 1. Start a weekly log of food you throw away, it's likely a pattern will emerge and you'll be able to adjust your shopping habits. 2. Understand the difference between sell-by and use-by dates. Many expiration dates do not refer to food safety instead, they relate to dates when quality and flavor may begin to decline

Cardboard-Breakdown  
Bottles and Cans Toter

Dot Lambert  
John Garinther

All in-person A.A. and N.A. meetings at St. Stephen's remain suspended.

# 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

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector  
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Weekday Sextons-Berkshire County ARC      Jenell Pullano, Supervisor  
Sunday Sexton      Roy Stillman

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