

St. Stephen's Parish
Pittsfield Massachusetts
Eastertide Worship
April 11, 2021 through May 22, 2021

Opening Hymn

see weekly supplement

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Presider may use the following:

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Full text of all readings may be found in the weekly supplement

The First Lesson

Psalm

The Second Lesson

The Holy Gospel

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Organ Solo

see weekly supplement

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.

Our Affirmation of Faith, Form II

Based on Ephesians (*Common Worship, Church of England*)

Let us say together in faith:

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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;

(please add your own intercessions) names from our prayer list may be found in the weekly supplement

Risen Christ:

grant them joy, peace, and health.

For all who have died,
that they may know God's love and life eternal.

(please add your own intercessions) names from our prayer list may be found in the weekly supplement

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 (*The Presider chooses one of the following.*)

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.**

Praise to you, God of Abundance, for when we ask, you give; when we seek, you show the way. When we knock, you answer. Praise to you for your unfailing grace. Make us now your faithful people. **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.

Announcements

see weekly supplement

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 I (*Presider may choose one of these or another.*)

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honor everyone;
love and serve our God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always.

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

see weekly supplement