

Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 21, 2023 10:00 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Voluntary	“My life flows on in endless song”	Raymond Haan
Hymn 450	“All hail the power of Jesus’ name”	<i>Coronation</i>

Opening Acclamation

The Collect of the Day

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lesson Acts 1: 6-14

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

Thanks be to God.

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; *
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; *
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; *
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; *
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, *
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; *
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people, *
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, *
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; *
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it; *
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God; *
**his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.**
- 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
**the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!**

The Gospel John 17: 1-11

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Choral Anthem “Hark, ten thousand harps and voices” Robert Powell

Hark, ten thousand harps and voices sound the note of praise above!

Jesus reigns, and Heaven rejoices, Jesus reigns, the God of love;

See, He sits on yonder throne; Jesus rules the world alone.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

Jesus, hail! Whose glory brightens all above, and gives it worth;

Lord of life, thy smile enlightens, cheers, and charms Thy saints on earth.

When we think of love like Thine, Lord, we own it love divine.

King of glory, reign forever! Thine an everlasting crown.

Nothing from thy love shall sever those whom thou hast made thine own:

Happy objects of thy grace, destined to behold thy face.

Savior, hasten thine appearing; bring, O bring the glorious day,
When, the awful summons bearing heaven and earth shall pass away;
Then with all the saints we'll sing, glory, glory to our king!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

Thomas Kelly

Affirmation of Faith

(page 2 in booklet)

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Especially: *Those on our prayer list: Ken & Diana; David; Tommie;*

Judy; Kathy; Patrick; David; Versie; Tom; Kate; Vicki ; Robert; The Dillon family;

We pray for a just peace for Ukraine; and for the well-being of all those in harm's way.

(The People may add their own petitions.)

Those who have died: *Robert Dillon;*

Choral Anthem “He that shall endure” from *St. Paul* Felix Mendelssohn

The Sanctus S125 (*sung by all, page 6 in booklet*)

The Fraction Anthem (*sung by all, page 8 in booklet*)

Communion Anthem “How can I keep from singing?” Cliff Brock

My life flows on, in endless song; above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that rock I'm clinging;
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth; How can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul; How can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Robert Lowry

Hymn 544 “Jesus shall reign where're the sun”

Duke Street

Announcements

Hymn 460 “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!” (*stanzas 1-4*)

Hyfrydol

Voluntary “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!”

Mark Sedio

PARISH NOTICES

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & COFFEE HOUR ARE HELD ON THE 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. The next meeting is May 28.

IS THERE A 2023 GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY? St. Stephen's would like to honor their achievement. Please contact the office:413-448-8276.

SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR THE 5:00 PM SERVICE – Beginning in June, the 5:00p.m. worship service will be held on the 2nd and 4th *SATURDAY* evening of the month. The spring/summer schedule will be June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, August 12 and August 26.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Grow it yourself: Get your hands dirty and try growing some of your own herbs, fruits and vegetables. The more you can avoid the grocery store, the more you'll help reduce emissions related to shipping and refrigerating all of that food.

Bottles/Cans Toter Bill Morey

Cardboard –Breakdown Mark Miller



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY- Scan the QR code to find our giving form. Or, text "giveststephens\$*your amount*" to 73256. (example: giveststephens\$25 will donate \$25.)

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 10 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

CELEBRANT 5 p.m.

The Rev. Thomas Damrosch

LECTORS 10 a.m.

James Cawse, Paula Morey

LECTOR 5 p.m.

Angie Moon

LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m.

Debbie Stillman, Paula Morey

LAY MINISTER 5 p.m.

Angie Moon

ALTAR GUILD

Angie Moon

GREETERS

Susan LeBourdais, Paula Morey

VESTRY GREETER

Bill O'Neill

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Closed Friday

Worship: Sunday May 28, 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday May 24, 6:30 p.m.
Zoom Compline

St. Stephen's Table: Thursday and Friday, Grab and Go 4:30 p.m.

ESL Classes for Afghan Evacuees: Monday and Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.

AA Meetings: Monday and Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday thru Friday at noon;
Saturday at 10:00 a.m. **NA Meetings:** Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 6:30
p.m. Dining Room

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, *We pray for:* Ken & Diana E; David W; Tommie C; Judy; Kathy; Patrick W; David; Versie; Tom S; Kate; Vicki S; Robert T; The family of Robert Dillon; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine; and for the well-being of all those in harm's way.

And those serving in the armed forces and their families: MAJ Andrew B., CPT Nichols P., 1LT Curran J.D., Lance CPL Chad L., SPC Amanda D., Pvt. Corey F.D., Army Ranger Sean J., Micah H.

We pray for our community:

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

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

St. John's, Millville;
Clergy living beyond the diocese
Episcopal Women's History Project;
New England Synod of the ELCA

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: The Church of the Province of the West Indies
Monday: Diocese of Taita-Taveta (Kenya)
Tuesday: Diocese of Taiwan (The Episcopal Church)
Wednesday: Diocese of Tamale (West Africa)
Thursday: Diocese of Tanga (Tanzania)
Friday: Diocese of Central Tanganyika (Tanzania)
Saturday: Diocese of South West Tanganyika (Tanzania)

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VESTRY

Craig Reynolds, Co. Warden
Suzanne White, Treasurer
Christopher Perry, Clerk
John Culver
David Nevin
James Alden

Josie Ellis, Co. Warden
William O'Neil, Asst. Treasurer
Wendy W. Coakley
John Garinther
Chris Plankey

Our Staff

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Weekday Sextons - Berkshire County ARC
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

The Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher
800-322-8513 www.diocesewma.org

Welcome to Worship at St. Stephen's

We are delighted to have you with us today as we worship together. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is an inclusive parish welcoming all people - regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or creed. God loves you, and so do we!

All Are Welcome to Receive from God's Table.

Each week we share the bread and the wine: the gifts of God, given for the people of God. We invite you to receive communion, but, if you'd rather receive a blessing, please come forward and indicate that by crossing your arms across your chest.

Receiving Communion:

The bread - When you come forward hold your hands out together, palm up. The clergy person will place a wafer in your hands, and say, "The body of Christ." Your response: "Amen." (Please let the clergy know if you'd prefer a gluten free wafer.)

The wine - is offered by chalice bearers on either side of the aisle in front of the altar area. Those sitting on the right should choose the right side chalice, those sitting on the left, choose the left side chalice. The chalice bearer will offer the wine, saying, "The Blood of Christ." Your response: "Amen." You may receive the wine by taking a small sip from the chalice, or by dipping your wafer in the wine, taking care not to touch the wine with your fingers. You may also choose to hear the words and respond without choosing to partake of the wine.

Children are always welcome at worship!!

Families are welcome to sit wherever they wish; there are tables toward the back of the sanctuary for those who would like to color. There are child-friendly books in a bookshelf near the coloring station on the right side. There's a Nursery Nook in the Guild Room for caregivers of infants and toddlers who need to take a break during worship.

Caregivers, please come and go as your child needs to - for their safety, we ask that children be accompanied at all times.

Sunday school is offered on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, in the Sears Room. Please ask an usher (or anyone wearing a name tag!) to show you the way. More information about Sunday School is available on the tables near the main entrance.