

**SAINT STEPHEN'S
PARISH**

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

**Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024**



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

Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary

“Toccata in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

Hymn 207

“Jesus Christ is risen today”

Easter Hymn

Welcome

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

The People Shout: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Collect: Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Confitemini Domino



- 14 The Lord is my strength and my **song**, *
and he has become my **salvation**.
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and **victory** *
in the tents of the **righteous**:
- 16 "The right hand of the Lord has **triumphed!** *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has **triumphed!**"
- 17 I shall not die, but **live**, *
and declare the works of the **Lord**.
- 18 The Lord has punished me **sorely**, *
but he did not hand me over to **death**.
- 19 Open for me the gates of **righteousness**; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the **Lord**.
- 20 "This is the gate of the **Lord**; *
he who is righteous may **enter**."
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you **answered me** *
and have become my **salvation**.
- 22 The same stone which the builders **rejected** *
has become the chief **cornerstone**.
- 23 This is the Lord's **doing**, *
and it is marvelous in our **eyes**.
- 24 On this day the Lord has **acted**; *
we will rejoice and be **glad in it**.

The Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going

ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

The Baptismal Covenant

Dear friends, through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and,
whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God's help.

Will you cherish the wondrous works of God,
and protect the beauty and integrity of all creation?

I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The priest now sprinkles the people with water from the font as a reminder that it was through our baptism that we entered in Christ's fellowship, the Church.

We thank you, Almighty God, for our baptism into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Offertory

Jesus said to his disciples, "This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you." cf John 15.12

Offertory Anthem

"Glory to the Righteous One"

Evelyn Larte

They raise their voices, they shout for joy;
from the west they acclaim the Lord's majesty!
Therefore, in the east give glory to the Lord,
Exalt the name of the Lord,
the God of Israel in the coastlands of the sea.
From the ends of the earth we hear singing,
singing Glory to the Righteous One!

Isaiah 24: 14-16

The Eucharistic Prayer

*Eucharistic Prayer IV,
The Scottish Episcopal Church, adapted*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

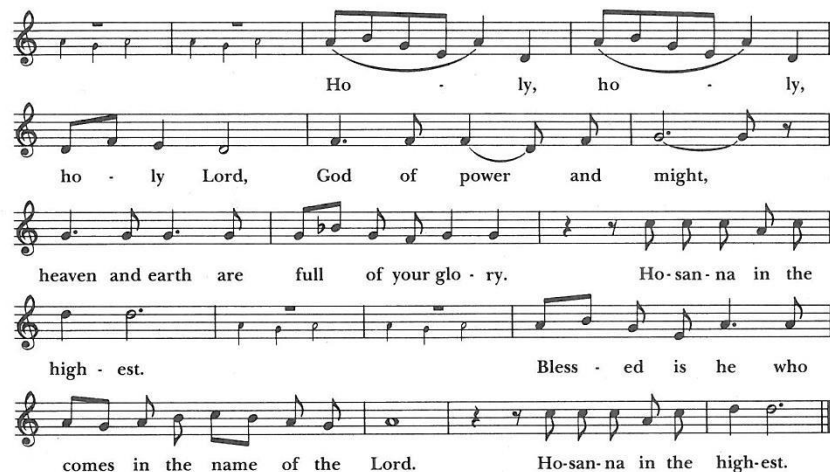
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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:

The Sanctus S 128 *(sung by all)*

William Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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 are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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:

“Arise and hail the sacred day”

William Billings

Arise, and hail the sacred day;
cast all low cares of life away,
and thoughts of meaner things;
this day, to cure thy deadly woes,
the Sun of Righteousness arose with healing in his wings.

The Invitation

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion All are welcome to receive at God’s table. When the usher indicates, please come forward to receive communion. If you'd prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms across your chest. Gluten free wafers available.

Communion Anthem

“Spring bursts today”

Robert Powell

Spring bursts today, for Christ is risen and all the world’s at play.
Flash forth, thou sun, the rain is over and gone, its work is done.
Winter is past, sweet spring is come, sweet spring is come at last.
Bud, fig, and vine, olive, fat with fruit and wine.
Break forth this morn in roses, thou but yesterday a thorn.
Uplift thy head, O pure white lily through the winter dead.
Beside your dams leap and rejoice, you merry making lambs.
All hares and flocks rejoice, all beasts of thickets and of rocks.
Sing, creatures sing, angels and men and birds and every thing.
All notes of doves fill all our world; this is the time of loves.

Christina Rosetti

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Risen Lord, be present with us 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

My friends, life is short
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us,
so be quick to love and make haste to be kind.
And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned
with the promise of our future
than the mistakes of our past.
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.**

Announcements

Hymn 208

“The strife is o’er”

Victory

Dismissal

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in the Risen Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Voluntary

“Fugue in D Minor”

J.S. Bach

† † †

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
LECTORS	Louise Penney
LAY MINISTERS	James Cawse, Christine Reynolds
ALTAR GUILD	Joan Evans (Chair)
GREETERS	Susan LeBourdais, Craig Reynolds

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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. *Today's Gifts to the Table are given by Nancy Ambrosi in loving memory of her parents Jack & Elsie Browne and brother Jack Browne; Gerry Crane in loving memory of her husband Jack Crane and Roy and Debbie Stillman in loving memory of Joan Morrow.*

EASTER PORTRAITS! - Ken Pooley will have his professional photography equipment set up in the Sanctuary after the 10 AM Easter service to snap complimentary photos. Have your photograph delivered via email or get an 8" x 10" print to be picked up at church. Happy Easter!

TWO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SATURDAY APRIL 20TH

Spring Work Day, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., lunch provided. Tasks for all abilities and interests available! You don't have to stay for the full session and, who knows, if there are enough hands the work may be done before 2. Please contact the Property Committee for more information or to sign up.

(Chris Plankey, Roy Sutton Al Symonds, Don Phipps, John Garinther)

Paint & Sip with Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., Noon – 4:00 p.m. Come to the Auditorium at noon to set up, help children with snacks or art projects from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. or cleanup after 3. Spend an hour or the whole afternoon. Contact Josie Ellis for more information.

SATURDAY APRIL 27: 2 FABULOUS EVENTS -

10:00 a.m. Sharon Billetter will be ordained as a deacon, all are welcome

3:00 p.m., Prizewinning Australian-born organist Daniel Minnick will present a thrilling program featuring music of Bach, Demessieux, and Widor. Please join us! Free admission with donations gratefully received.

LIVING GREEN TIP

Use long- lasting light bulbs: Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!

Paper Toter Caleb Harmon

Cardboard-Home Paula Morey

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday- April 3, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Compline, Sunday April 7, 10:00 a.m.

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

ESL Classes: Monday and Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.

AA Meetings: Monday – Thursday at noon: Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Dining Room.

NA Meeting: Tuesday & Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Dining Room



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY- Scan the QR code to find our giving form. Or, text "givetstephens\$*your amount*" to 73256. (example: givetstephens\$25 will donate \$25.) Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS



Bill Boos

Gene & Gloria Brady

Caroline Bregg

Barbara K. Rawson Brouker

John F. Brouker

Judy J. Culver-Bueno

John Forsyth

Myron Gray

Bill & Doris Guzzo

Daniel Kelly

Mary Kelly

Herbert A. Krause

Marian W. Krause

Althea Krause Leyon

John R. Leyon

Heidi Lockman

Joan Morrow

William & Anne Morrow

Richard & Agnes Nightingale

Harold & Marjorie Olds

Harriet & Tracey Rawling

Ray Rawson

Bernard & Rita Stanley

John & Edith Sutton

Robert Talanian

Evelyn D. Watson

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Ken & Diana E; Tommie C; Judy; Kathy; Patrick W; Martie E; David; Sue & Tom S; Kate; Natasha; Kimberly; Jeff K; Keith C; Kathryn D; Marcus B; Patience B., Mackenzie P; Evan C; Sandy S; Kristie H; Sokpha I; Cathy D; Eric H.; Leigh N; Robert L; Mike E.; Will C.; The family of Donna Moon; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for those affected by the violence in Israel and Palestine.

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:

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

In our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

St. Francis', Holden;
Lay Employees of our Diocese;
Clergy spouses and families
Episcopal Church Missionary Community;
Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSIE)

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Province of the West Indies
Monday: Diocese of Damaturu (Nigeria)
Tuesday: Diocese of Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania)
Wednesday: Diocese of Davao (Phillippines)
Thursday: Diocese of Saint Davids (Wales)
Friday: Diocese of Delaware (The Episcopal Church)
Saturday; Diocese of Delhi (North India)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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VESTRY

Josie Ellis, Co. Warden
Suzanne White, Treasurer
Christopher Perry, Clerk
David Nevin
James Alden
Caleb Harmon

John Garinther, Co. Warden
William O'Neill, Asst. Treasurer
Wendy W. Coakley
Chris Plankey
Beth-Anne Hamling

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Dan Moon,
Director of St. Stephen's Table
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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 child-friendly books in a bookshelf near a coloring station in the back, on the right side of the sanctuary. There's a second coloring station on the front left, where there is also our **Kids' Own Space activity area**. 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, September through May.