

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Saturday May 11, 5 p.m. and Sunday May 12, 2024, 10 a.m.

Voluntary “Now thank we all our God” Jeffrey Honoré

Hymn 495 “Hail, thou once despised Jesus!” *In Babilone*

Opening Acclamation (*page 1 in booklet*)

The Collect

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.**

First Lesson: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus-- for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us-- one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 1

(sung by all)

Beatus vir qui non abiit



- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the **wicked**, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners;
nor sat in the seats of the **scornful!**
- 2 Their delight is in the law of the **LORD**, *
and they meditate on his law day and **night**.
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water;
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not **wither**; *
everything they do shall **prosper**.
- 4 It is not so with the **wicked**; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows **away**.
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment **comes**, *
nor the sinner in the council of the **righteous**.
- 6 For the **LORD** knows the way of the **righteous**, *
but the way of the wicked is **doomed**.

The Gospel John 17: 6-19

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glorify to you, Lord Christ

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "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. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word,

and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Affirmation of Faith (page 2 booklet)

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, Especially:

Those on our prayer list: *We pray for: Ken & Diana; Tommie; Judy; Kathy; Martie; David; Kate; Jeff; Keith; Kathryn; Marcus; Evan; Sandy; Sokpha; Cathy; Robert; Mike ;Will; Jennifer; Judy; John; Brant Douglas, Austine, Sean & Juniper M; Derek & Jenny; Gary; the family of Marlene and Paul Bronker; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; the congregation of Nativity in Northboro; We pray for a just peace for Ukraine, and for those affected by the violence in Israel and Palestine. Please include your intercessions.*

Offertory Anthem “I will not leave you comfortless” Everett Titcomb

I will not leave you comfortless:
I will come to you again. Alleluia.
And your hearts shall be joyful. Alleluia.

John 14: 18

The Great Thanksgiving (page 6, booklet)

Communion Anthem “Love Divine” James Biery

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be alway blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.
Charles Wesley

Announcements

Hymn 397 “Now thank we all our God” *Nun danket alle Gott*
Voluntary “All glory be to God on High” J.S. Bach

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 “Give,” and “St. Stephen’s Table” from the Fund

SUNDAY FUNDAY FOR PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY CHILDREN- May 26, 9:45 a.m. gather in the Sears Room. Year End Celebration! Will return in September.

EASTERTIDE ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING - Biblical Women of the Hebrew Scriptures. Final meeting is May 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Sears Room. The topic is Ruth, the grandmother of King David. ALL ARE WELCOME! Louise Penney, facilitator.

MAY IS NATIONAL BIKE MONTH - The Blessing of the Bikes will take place on The Common at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday May 19.

DO YOU HAVE A 2024 GRADUATE IN YOUR FAMILY? St. Stephen’s would like to honor any graduates in our parish family. Please let the office know if you have a 2024 graduate. ((413)-448-8276, smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org)

JUNE 8TH IS THE BERKSHIRE PRIDE FESTIVAL – St. Stephen’s will have a table on The Common. If you’d like to help out, please contact Josie Ellis (413-281-6416, joze72@yahoo.com)

LIVING GREEN TIP

Plant Your Own Tree: There are multiple benefits to planting a tree in your garden. It is good for the environment both the land and the air, it can shade your home and cut back your con usage and it can even increase the value of your property. You could make it an annual event where each family member plants a new tree.

Paper Toter Brendan Dillon

Cardboard-Home Paula Morey



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY- Scan the QR code to find our giving form. Or, text “giviststephens\$*your amount*” to 73256. (example: giviststephens\$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.

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT 10 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
CELEBRANT 5 p.m.	The Rev. David DeSmith
LECTORS 10 a.m.	Renee Kaley, James Cawse
LECTOR 5 p.m.	Al Symonds
LAY MINISTERS 10 a.m.	Paula Morey, Jim Cawse
LAY MINISTER 5 p.m.	Lois Symonds
ALTAR GUILD	William Frazier (Chair), Diane Forsyth, Angie Moon
GREETERS	Claudia A. Curry, Sandy Soule
VESTRY GREETER	Josie Ellis
COFFEE HOUR	Josie Ellis

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 p.m. Compline;
Sunday May 19, 10:00 a.m.

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

Meetings: AA –Monday - Thursday at noon, Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 10:00 a.m. NA - Tuesday & Wednesday 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; Tommie C; Judy; Kathy; Martie E; David; Kate; Jeff K; Keith C; Kathryn D; Marcus B; Evan C; Sandy S; Sokpha I; Cathy D; Robert L; Mike E.; Will C.; Jennifer D. the family of Marlene and Paul Brouker ; Judy J.; John K; Brant Douglas, Austine, Sean & Juniper M; Derek & Jenny; Gary; Presiding Bishop Michael Curry; the congregation of Nativity in Northboro; 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:

Local Food Programs
Pittsfield City Government
The Governor of Massachusetts

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

St. Andrew's, Longmeadow
Commission on Ministry;
Third Order of Franciscans
Faith Alive;
The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS)

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Anglican Church of Burundi
Monday: Diocese of Ekiti Kwara (Nigeria)
Tuesday: Diocese of Ekiti Oke (Nigeria)
Wednesday: Diocese of Ekiti West (Nigeria)
Thursday: Diocese of Eldoret (Kenya)
Friday: Diocese of Port Elizabeth (Southern Africa)
Saturday: Diocese of El-Obeid (Sudan)

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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'Neil, Asst. Treasurer
Wendy W. Coakley
Chris Plankey
Beth-Anne Hamling

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 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.