

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

**The Sunday of the Passion:
Palm Sunday
April 13**



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

The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
Saturday April 12, 5:00 p.m. and April 13, 2025 10:00 a.m.

The Liturgy of the Palms

Voluntary

“Fantasia in C Minor”

J.S. Bach

Welcome

Hymn 154

“All glory, laud and honor”
(verses 1-3)

Valet will ich dir geben

Opening Acclamation

Prisider: Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Prisider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Gospel of the Palms: Luke 19:28-40

The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ

Blessing of the Palms

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Sovereign God, for the acts of love by which you have set us free. On this day Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly to suffer and to die and was greeted with branches of palm. Let these branches be for us symbols of his majesty and his sacrifice. May we who carry them follow Christ in the way of the cross which leads to life; through Christ who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Presider: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Hymn 154

“All glory, laud and honor”

Valet will ich dir geben

Distribution of the Palms

(verses 4-5)

Presider: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: Hosanna in the highest!

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley



The Liturgy of the Passion

The Affirmation of Faith (*An ancient hymn, this text is quoted in Philippians 2:5-11, assigned as the Second Lesson*)

Presider: Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus.

**We believe in Jesus Christ who,
though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

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

Especially: *Ken; Keith; Marcus; Sokpba; Mike; Will; Judy; Marty; Ann; Marc; Chris; Pat; Becky; Susan; Dren; James; Ted; Aloha; Jeanne; A.J; Jean; a just peace for Ukraine, and those affected by the violence in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon.*
(The People may add their own petitions)

Presider: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Choral Anthem

“Hosanna to the Son of David”

Plainsong/Tomás Luis de Victoria

Hosanna to the Son of David.

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.

O King of Israel,
Hosanna in excelsis!

The Great Thanksgiving

Prisider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prisider: Lift up your hearts.

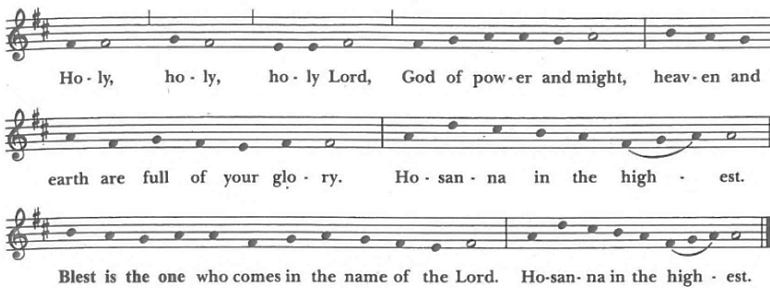
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Prisider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Prisider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (sung by all at 10 am) S-124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Sanctus (spoken by all at 5 pm)

**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.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and

gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **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.

The Fraction Anthem “Insult has broken my heart” George Nesbit

Insult has broken my heart and I am weak.
I looked for sympathy, but there was none.
I looked for comforters, and never found one.
 Rather they put gall in my food,
And in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink!

The Fraction (*spoken 5pm*)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

The Invitation

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

The Communion

All are welcome to receive at God’s table.

Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the celebrant know.

Specific information about how to receive communion is found at the end of this bulletin.

(Feel free to ask questions of anyone wearing a name tag!)

Communion Anthem

“Gethsemane”

Carol Muehlig

Garden of memory by torchlight and moon,
In a night sharp with stars
Gethsemane blooms.

The old gatherings, the ancient fields of war;
A kiss of greeting, where we had met before;
The breath of sacrifice rising up once more.
Garden of enmity by torchlight and moon,
In a night sharp with stars Gethsemane blooms.
The old offerings, trade for a traitor's cost;
The years returning to mend the winding cloth,
To take the earth for trees and make another cross.
Garden of agony by torchlight and moon,
In a night sharp with stars Gethsemane blooms.

Linda Muehlig

Communion Hymn 458

“My song is love unknown” *Love Unknown*

Post Communion Prayer

*(adapted from Common Worship,
New Prayers for Worship, Resource Section.)*

Presider: Let us pray.

**Merciful God, you have called us to your table
and fed us with the bread of life;
strengthen our faith that we may grow in love
for you and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

May God keep you steadfast
as you walk with Christ the way of the cross.
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

The Reading of the Passion Luke 23:1-49

Congregation may be seated until third portion

Luke 23:1-12, *first lector*

The assembly of the elders of the people rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then

he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

Luke 23:13-25, *second lector*

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Luke 23:26-38, *third lector* (*congregation stands at the bolded section*)

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. (*Congregations stands*) **When they came to the place that is called The Skull**, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the

people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Luke 23:39-49, *forth lector*

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

*Following the Passion, you are invited to leave the sanctuary in silence.
Our observance of Holy Week has begun.*

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. *This week's Gifts to the Table are given in loving memory of Tommie Coles by her family.*

SUNDAY FUNDAY - today, gather in the Sears Room. 9:45 a.m.

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS will be accepted until Tuesday April 15. Envelopes are available at the church. You may also give on line or contact the office.

YPF AT HANCOCK SHAKER VILLAGE TODAY - 1 PM. Visit with the baby animals then meet at the fire pit for a discussion about the role of faith in daily life. RSVP to Matt: 413-579-4005

POP UP POTLUCKS ARE BACK! Bring a dish to share and enjoy dinner with your St. Stephen's family on Friday, May 2 at 6 PM.

Paper Toter- Brendan Dillon Harmon

Cardboard- Home Jeff Pringle



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.)

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	10 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
CELEBRANT	5 p.m.	The Rev. Tom Damrosch
LECTORS	10 a.m.	Gwen Davis, Paula Morey, Chris Reynolds
LECTORS	5p.m.	Marietta Cawse, Jim Cawse
LAY MINISTERS	10 a.m.	Chris Reynolds, Brendan Dillon Harmon
LAY MINISTER	5 p.m.	Jim Cawse
ALTAR GUILD		Susan Smith, Claudia A. Curry
GREETERS		Susan LeBourdais, Diane Forsyth
VESTRY GREETER		Jim Brennan
COFFEE HOUR		Marie & Roy Sutton

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00a.m.-4p.m.,

Worship: Holy Week services below, Wednesday , April 16, 6:30p.m.
Compline,

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

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

Meetings: AA: Monday-Thursday at noon; Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Dining Room. NA: Tuesday & Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Saturday 6:30 p.m. Dining Room Beginning in April, Noon AA will meet Monday – Thursday.

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday

April 17

6:00 p.m., Service in the Sanctuary

Good Friday

April 18

9:00 a.m.-Noon, Sanctuary open for Stations of the Cross

12:00 Noon- Procession of the cross, walking the “stations” in downtown
Pittsfield with the Campus of Downtown Churches

Gather at First United Methodist

Easter Vigil

April 19

7:00 p.m. with the Campus of Downtown Churches

Hosted by United Church of Christ and First Baptist Church
Beginning with Fire at United Church of Christ (110 South St.)

Easter Sunday

April 20

10:00 a.m. Festival Eucharist

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, *We pray for Ken; Keith; Marcus; Sokpba; Mike; Will; Judy; Marty; Ann; Marc; Chris; Pat; Becky; Susan; Dren; James; Ted; Aloha; Jeanne; A.J; Jean; a just peace for Ukraine, and those affected by the violence in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon.*

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. Luke's, Lanesboro;
Latino/Hispanic Ministries;
Ecumenical & Interreligious Dialogue
Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF);
Forward Movement Publications

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Church of England
Monday: Diocese of Matlosane (Southern Africa)
Tuesday: Diocese of Mauritius (Indian Ocean)
Wednesday: Diocese of Mbaise (Nigeria)
Thursday: Diocese of Mbale (Uganda)
Friday: Diocese of North Mbale (Uganda)
Saturday; Diocese of Mbamili (Nigeria)

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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VESTRY

John Garinther Co-Warden
Christopher Perry, Treasurer
Chris Plankey, Clerk
Caleb Dillon Harmon
William Morey
Christine Fucinite-Reynolds

David Nevin, Co-Warden
William O'Neill, Asst. Treasurer
James Alden
James Brennan
Leah Luczynski

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Weekday Sextons – Ecuadorian Women's Co-op
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.