

Second Sunday of Easter
Saturday April 26, 5p.m. & Sunday April 27, 2025 10a.m.

Voluntary “We walk by faith and not by sight” James Biery

Hymn 210 “The day of resurrection” *Ellacombe*

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Acts 5: 27-32

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

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



Psalm 150 (*Sung by all*)

Laudate Dominum

1 Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy **temple**; *
praise him in the firmament of his **power**.

2 Praise him for his mighty **acts**; *
praise him for his excellent **greatness**.

3 Praise him with the blast of the **ram's-horn**; *
praise him with lyre and **harp**.

New to St. Stephen's? You will find helpful information on the back of this leaflet.

- 4 Praise him with timbrel and **dance**; *
praise him with strings and **pipe**.
- 5 Praise him with resounding **cymbals**; *
praise him with loud-clanging **cymbals**.
- 6 Let everything that has **breath** *
praise the Lord. **Hallelujah!**

The Gospel John 20: 19-31

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Christ.

The Prayers of the People,

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; Natasha; The family of Bill Engle; a just peace for Ukraine, and those affected by the violence in Israel, Palestine and Lebanon.

Those who have Died, Bill Engle, Pope Francis

Peace (page 6 in booklet)

Offertory Anthem “Alleluia” Mark Schweizer

The Great Thanksgiving (page 5 in booklet)

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

Hymn 205 “Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!” *Gelobt sei Gott*

Voluntary “Christ the Lord is risen today” Robert Powell



PARISH NOTICES

WHO ARE WE? St. Stephen's Parish is a community of people who together seek to serve our community, drawing strength and joy from worshipping together. We don't all believe the same, act the same, vote the same, or dress the same – but we strive to love the same, as Christ loved and served all people.

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 by Michael Behnke, in honor of the Youth Ministry of Matt Behnke and John & Janet Clark in memory of Rory O'Connor.*

POP-UP POTLUCK, FRIDAY, MAY 2, 6 PM – Sign up sheet outside the Guild Room.

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



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.) Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

Paper Toter- Roy Sutton

Cardboard- Home - Joan Evans

MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT	10a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Nina R Pooley
CELEBRANT	5p.m.	The Rev. David DeSmith
LECTORS	10a.m.	Bill Frazier, Sarah Novak
LECTOR	5p.m.	Josie Ellis
LAY MINISTERS	10a.m.	Chris Plankey, Joan Evans
LAY MINISTER	5p.m.	Josie Ellis
ALTAR GUILD		Joan Evans
GREETERS		Laura Kelly, Jennifer Townsend
VESTRY GREETER		David Nevin
COFFEE HOUR		Kathryn Jensen

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday-April 30, Compline at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom
Sunday May 4, 10a.m.

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

ESL Classes: 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

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: *Ken; Keith; Marcus; Sokpha; Mike; Will; Judy; Marty; Ann; Marc; Chris; Pat; Becky; Susan; Dren; James; Ted; Aloha; Jeanne; AJ R; Jean G; Natasha; The family of Bill Engle; Pope Francis; 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 Community

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

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

Trinity Church, Lenox;
Social Justice Commission;
Church School teachers & Christian Educators
Episcopal Youth Event (EYE);
The Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM)

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean
Monday: Diocese of Meridional (Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil)
Tuesday: Diocese of Meru (Kenya)
Wednesday Diocese of Mexico
Thursday: Diocese of Del Norte de Mexico (La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico)
Friday: Diocese of Michigan (The Episcopal Church)
Saturday: Diocese of Eastern Michigan (The Episcopal Church)b

St Stephen's Episcopal Church

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VESTRY

John Garinther, Co-Warden
J. Christopher Perry, Treasurer
Christopher Plankey, Clerk
Caleb Dillon Harmon
William Morey
Christine Furcinite-Reynolds

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

Our Staff

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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.

Restrooms are located in our Parish House

Exit the sanctuary via the doors on either side of the altar and follow the signs.