

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist and Baptism
Sunday October 19, 2025

Prelude Prelude No. 14 in F-Sharp Minor, *BWV 859* J. S. Bach

Hymn 657 "Love divine, all loves excelling" *Hyfrydol*

Opening Acclamation (*page 1 in the booklet*)

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Genesis 32:22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121 (*sung by the choir*) *Levavi oculos*

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

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

- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Gospel Luke 18: 1-8

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Presentation of the Candidates for Baptism

(Bottom of page 1 booklet)

The Great Thanksgiving

(page 9 in booklet)

The Fraction

S 167 (*Sung by all with Cantor*)

Mason Martens

Antiphon
Cantor; then All



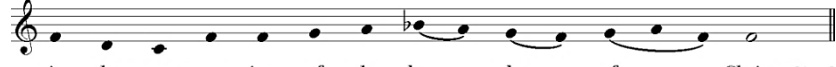
The dis-ci-ples knew the Lord Je-sus in the break-ing of the bread.

Cantor



1. The bread which we break, al-le-lu-ia,
is the com-mun-ion of the bo-dy of Christ. [Ant.]

Cantor



2. One bo-dy are we, al-le-lu-ia,
for though man-y we share one bread. [Ant.]

Communion Anthem “Guide me, me O thou great Jehovah” *Cum Rhondda*

Post Communion Prayer (*page 12 in the booklet*)

Announcements

Hymn 692 “I heard the voice of Jesus say” *The Third Tune*

Postlude Fugue No. 14 in F-Sharp Minor, *BWV 859* J. S. Bach

This morning we welcome 2 families

The French Godbout family, Isabella and Jeremy, who, with daughters Sophia and Charleigh Ann present Odis Jean for baptism; and the family of Christina and Michael Wynn who, with son Gabriel, present Jayden Joseph for baptism.

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 may be made by sending a donation to the church or through our website. On the website, select "Give," to find the link to the online giving page. Select "St. Stephen's Table from the Fund menu.

SUNDAY FUNDAY October 26, 9:45a.m. gather in the Sears Room.

THANKSGIVING ANGELS ARE BACK!!!– This year St. Stephen's and Zion Lutheran churches are responsible for 2500 boxes of cornbread mix. The boxes are ordered and each church's contribution is \$625.00. Additional donations will go towards the purchase of turkeys. Any questions, please contact Joan Evans 413-822-0889.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP will hold their first event of 2025-26 at Ramblewild on Sunday afternoon, October 26. And it's not too early to sign up for Thanksgiving Angels food delivery. Please contact Colin Behnke for more information.

JOIN A NETWORK OF VOLUNTEERS PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION to our immigrant community, training on October 31 at 1 PM. Informational flyers available in the church and on the website.



GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S IS EASY – Scan the QR code to find our giving form, or text "giveststephens\$youramount" 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.

Bottles/Cans Toter –John Garinther	Cardboard Breakdown- Susan Wojtasik
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MINISTERS OF THE CELEBRATION

CELEBRANT

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

LECTORS

Sarah Novak, Diane Forsyth

LAY MINISTERS

Jim Alden, Paula Morey

ALTAR GUILD

Joan Evans, Sandy Soule

GREETERS

Josie Ellis, Anne Williams

VESTRY GREETER

Bill Morey

CRUCIFER

Stephen Lussier

PIANIST & MEN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR:

Matthew Behnke

MEN'S CHOIR

Colin Behnke, Matthew Behnke, William Frazier, Charles Sawyer, Jeffrey Hine, William Morey, Donald Phipps, Matthew Smith

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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

Worship: Wednesday, October 22, Compline at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Saturday October 25, 5p.m. & Sunday, October 26, 10 a.m.

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

ESL Classes: Monday & Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

Meetings: AA: Friday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 10:00 a.m. NA: Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, 6:30 p.m. Dining Room

THIS WEEKS PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Ken E.; Keith C.; Marcus; Sokpha; Drew; James; AJ R.; Steph M.; Robertine M.; Judy; Paul A.; Craig S.; Glen M.; Mike E.; Thom S.; Jay G.; Linda H.; Evan C.; Haley; Eve; Barbara; Ted K.; Sophia; Sue C.; Marjorie C.; Natasha L.; Philip R.; Brady W.; Amy; a just peace for Ukraine, those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan; and all those affected by gun violence.

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 Christian Center

Congregations of Knesset Israel

Temple Anshe Amunim

The Supreme Court

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

St. Stephen's Westborough;

The Episcopal Chaplaincy at Western Massachusetts

Regional Women's Correctional Center

Daily Bread Food Pantry, Milford;

Gideon's Garden, Great Barrington

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday the Episcopal Church

Monday: Diocese of Perth (Australia)

Tuesday Diocese of Peru (South America)

Wednesday Diocese of Peshawar (Pakistan)

Thursday: Diocese of Peterborough (England)

Friday: Diocese of Central Philippines

Saturday: for the Diocese of North Central Philippines

Meet and Greet the Candidates for the 10th Bishop of Western Massachusetts

The Transition Committee has planned three “Meet and Greets” at the beginning of November to allow delegates to the convention (to be held November 14-15) and other interested members of the Diocese to meet and hear from the three individuals presented as candidates for Bishop of Western Massachusetts.

During the Meet and Greets, a variety of questions will be asked of the nominees so that attendees may get to know them. **We are currently soliciting questions to be used at these events.** Questions may be submitted via the link on the Bishop Search and Transition page on the Diocesan website, found at <https://www.diocesewma.org/bishop-search-and-transition>. The deadline for submitting questions is midnight October 26. No questions will be asked “from the floor.”

Meet and Greets are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, November 4

All Saints Episcopal Church, 10 Irving St., Worcester, 6:00pm

Wednesday, November 5

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 67 East St. Pittsfield., 6:00pm

Thursday, November 6

Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, 6:00pm

A casual reception at 5:30pm will give lay delegates to the convention an opportunity to meet the candidates. The formal program will begin at 6pm. Clergy will soon receive an invitation to a separate opportunity to meet the candidates in an informal setting.

The Meet-and-Greet process affords all people in our diocese an opportunity to get to know the candidate for our next bishop. Delegates are meant to represent the people of our diocese. The voices and opinions of non-delegates are an essential part of the process of electing a new bishop. St. Stephen’s delegates are Rev. Nina, John Garinther, David Nevin, and Chris Perry. Al Symonds is the alternate.

St Stephen's Episcopal Church

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Pittsfield, MA 01201

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ststephenspittsfieldnews@gmail.com (news items)

www.ststephenspittsfield.org



VESTRY

John Garinther, Co-Warden
J. Christopher Perry, Treasurer
James Alden
James Brennan
Leah Luczynski

David Nevin, Co-Warden
Christopher Plankey, Clerk
Caleb Dillon Harmon
William Morey
Christine Furcinite-Reynolds

Our Staff

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector
ninapooley@revnina.org

Sarah Morrison, Parish Administrator
smorrison@ststephenspittsfield.org

Bert Boos, Office Assistant
bboos@ststephensfield.org

Joy Mullen, Director of Music
jmullen@ststephenspittsfield.org

Dan Moon,
Director of St Stephen's Table
dmoon@pittsfield.net

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.

Collection Plates are located at each entrance. All gifts gratefully accepted.

Restrooms are located in our Parish House: Exit the sanctuary via the doors on either side of the altar, follow the signs.