

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary “Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness” Anton Leupold

Hymn 525 “The Church’s one foundation” *Aurelia*

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation (*page 1 in the booklet*)

Collect

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Acts 7: 55-60

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People

Thanks be to God

Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16 (*please read responsively*) *In te, Domine, speravi*

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

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

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
**for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.**

15 My times are in your hand; *
**rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

The Gospel John 14: 1-14

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley

Affirmation of Faith *(page 2 in the booklet)*

The Prayers of the People *(page 3 in the booklet)*

We also pray for: Ken, Keith, Marcus, Drew, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Thom, Ted, Scott, Charley, Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Jason; Heather; Mary; Evan; Caleb; the family of Michael Miller; the family of Don Fillio; just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Those who have died: Michael Miller; Don Fillio (father of Amanda Watroba)

Confession *(page 4 in the booklet)*

Peace *(page 5 in the booklet)*
(Collection Plates are located at each Entrance)

Offertory Anthem “Peace to you” Robert Pearsall

Peace to you, my peace, be with you.
As the Father sent me, now I send you.
Receive the Holy Spirit.
My peace I give to you forever, Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving *(page 5 in booklet)*

Sanctus *(Sung)*

Fraction Anthem *(Sung)*

Communion Anthem “Rise, my fair one” Mark Schweizer

O voice of the Beloved! Thy bride hath heard Thee say;
“Rise up, my love, my fair one, arise and come away.
For lo, ‘tis past, the winter, the winter of thy year;
The rain is done and over, the flowers on earth appear.”

“And now the time of singing is come for every bird;
And over all the country the turtle dove is heard;
The fig her green fruit ripens, the vines are in their bloom;
Arise and smell their fragrance; my love, my fair one, come!”

Our Easter Sun is risen! And yet we slumber long;
And need Thy Dove’s sweet pleading to waken prayer and song.
Oh breathe upon our darkness, Oh shine upon our gloom;
Lord, let us feel thy presence and rise and live and bloom.

Song of Solomon 2: 10-13; 8:6-7

Post Communion Prayer *(page 8 in the booklet)*

Blessing

Announcements

Hymn 655 “O Jesus, I have promised” *Nyland*

Voluntary “Carillon” Malcolm Archer

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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.

KNIT AND SIP MEETS MAY 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the Guild Room. All are welcome, prayer shawl patterns and knitting advice available.

SUNDAY FUNDAY May 10, gather in the Sears Room at 9:50 a.m.

DEEPER WELL: BRIEF SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR BUSY, WEARY PEOPLE - Wednesdays 5-5:25 pm, The Common Room at Zion Lutheran Church. Tend your spirit and find renewal as we gather for simple, brief, and accessible spiritual practices.

May 13: Labyrinth Walk

May 27: Praying in Color

May 20: Centering Prayer

June 3: Jazz Vespers (time change)
service at 6 pm

A joint venture of Cathedral of the Beloved, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and Zion Lutheran Church, Deeper Well features the leadership of Rev. Jenny Gregg, Rev. Nina Pooley, and Rev. Joel Bergeland.

Deeper Well follows Open Sanctuary, where The Common Room at Zion Lutheran Church is unlocked and available for prayer, rest, and stillness on Wednesdays from 3-5pm.

Deeper Well - Go Deeper. Be Well.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

In our Parish prayers, we pray for: Ken, Keith, Marcus, Drew, Robertine, Paul, Glen, Thom, Ted, Scott, Charley, Bill; Natasha; Sue; Mike; Don; Pat; Jason; Heather; Mary; Evan; Caleb; the family of Michael Miller; the family of Don Fillio; just peace for Ukraine; those affected by the violence in the Middle East and Sudan.

Those who have died: Michael Miller; Don Fillio

We pray for 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
Congregation of Knesset Israel
Temple Anshe Amunim
The Supreme Court

In Our Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for:

St. Mark's, Leominster;
Loving the Questions Discernment Experience
Evangelical Education Society;
National Episcopal AIDS Association (NEAA)

In our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for:

Sunday: Church of North India
Monday Diocese of Yamnio (South Sudan)
Tuesday Diocese of Yangon (Myanmar)
Wednesday Diocese of Yei (South Sudan)
Thursday: Diocese of Yeri (South Sudan)
Friday: Diocese of Yewa (Nigeria)
Saturday: Diocese of Yirol (South Sudan)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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VESTRY

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J. Christopher Perry, Treasurer
James Brennan
Caleb Dillon-Harmon
Leah Luczynski
Anne Williams

David Nevin, Co-Warden
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Weekday Sextons – Ecuadorian Women's Co-op
Sunday Sexton Roy Stillman

The Diocese of Western Massachusetts

The Rt. Rev. Miguelina Howell

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.