St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church on Main Street...
where love begets love

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00 am

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are delighted that you are here.

The second Sunday of the month we have our "Second Sunday Intergenerational Service." Our children and youth join us for the entirety of the service, with some serving as liturgical ministers. We use child specific resources for some of the readings and prayers, and make other changes so the liturgy is more accessible to the younger among us.

All of what you need to join us is in this bulletin or in one of two hymnals:

Hymnal 1982 (the blue book)
"H" followed by a number indicates hymns.
"S" followed by a number indicates selections that appear in the front section of the blue hymnal.

St. Stephen's Hymnal (the red spiral bound book):
"SSH" followed by a number indicates hymns.

PRELUDE

Gather

We come together to praise God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

H 390 Praise to the Lord, the almighty *Love den Herren*

WELCOME

Word

We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

S 280 Glory to God in the highest *Robert Powell*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. 2:42-47

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 23, *The Saint Helena Psalter*

O God, you are my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.

You revive my soul
guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil,
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, the comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of God for ever.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from the First letter of Peter. 2:19-25

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H 664 My shepherd will supply my need *Resignation*

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. 10:1-10

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

THE SERMON *The Rev. Paula J. Toland*

Please stand as you are able.

THE CREED *Enriching Our Worship*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Form III, BCP*

God, 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; Bless all who lead and teach Christians in this community; for Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Carlye, our Diocesan Bishop; Paula, our Rector; Karen, our Deacon; Maryalice and Roger, our Wardens; our Vestry and delegates;
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; Guide Donald, our President; J.D., our Vice-President; Mikie, our Governor and Frank, our Mayor, that they would lead with compassion and mercy;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Bring healing and peace, to all who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words and actions of leaders anywhere;
That they would live an awareness of your unconditional love for all people.

Give courage to allies and advocates everywhere that they may continue the fight to uphold the dignity and worth of every human being as they walk alongside those who have experienced dehumanizing or demoralizing treatment of any kind;
That they will continue to have the strength and courage to do this holy work.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; we pray for our partners in ministry: Apostles' House, Cross Roads, Family Promise, North Jersey Pride, and North Porch. We pray for our sister congregations in the Evelyn Underhill Region: Calvary, Summit; Christ Church in Short Hills; Grace, Madison; St. George's, Maplewood; and St. Paul's, Chatham.
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, including those on our parish prayer list:

Mary Loucas	Lizzie Ekberg	Karen Eberhardt
Evie Larson	Boyd Hunnaman	Sue and Larry H.
Donna Riggi	James K.	Maureen Burke Rockaway
Mary Ruth Stone	Walter	Maggie Holland
Kris Hunt	Ron G.	Celine Ghiara
Aldaiza DaSilva	Marvin	Irina Brown
Antonio DaSilva	Kayt and Adam Zielinski	Timothy M.
Carol & Kyle McManus	Victor Calantoni	Eugene Foley
Martha Lipowski	Jenna Mitchell	David Cabush

Keith Taber Maryann Ekberg	Brian Nusom Melissa Biren	

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Kathleen N;
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.

We give you thanks for St. Stephen's Staff and Preschool.

The Presider offers a concluding Collect.

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, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Table

We offer our gifts, give thanks, and we gather at Christ's banquet

Please be seated.

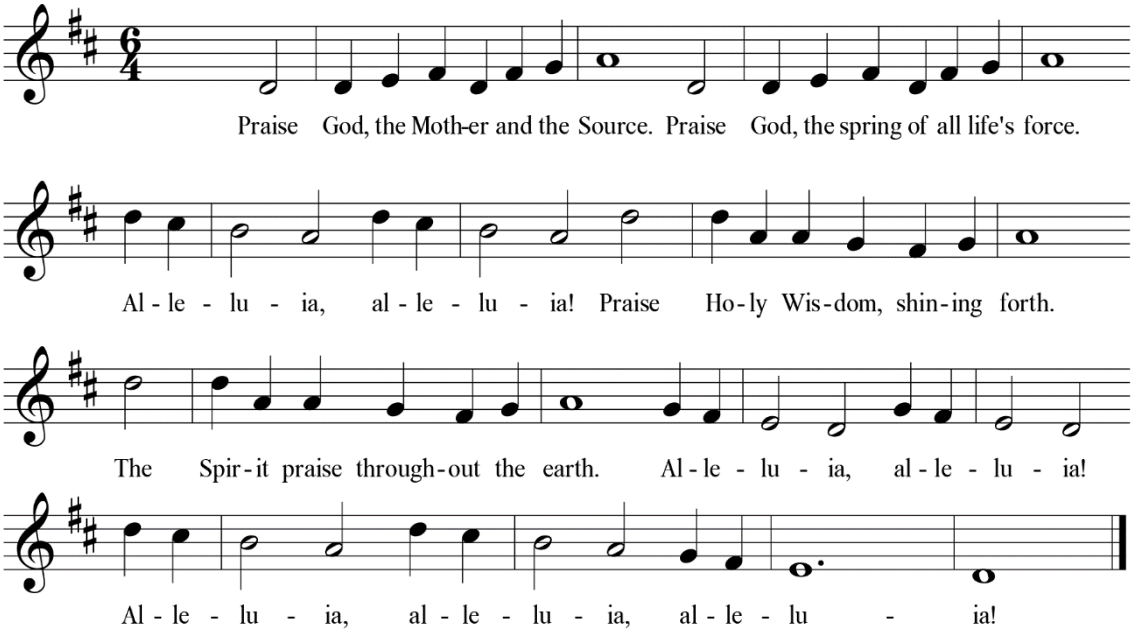
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Loving Shepherd — *J.S. Bach*
Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, the Mother and the Source *Jody L. Caldwell*



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Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen,* melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesaeng,* 1623.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3 *EOW*
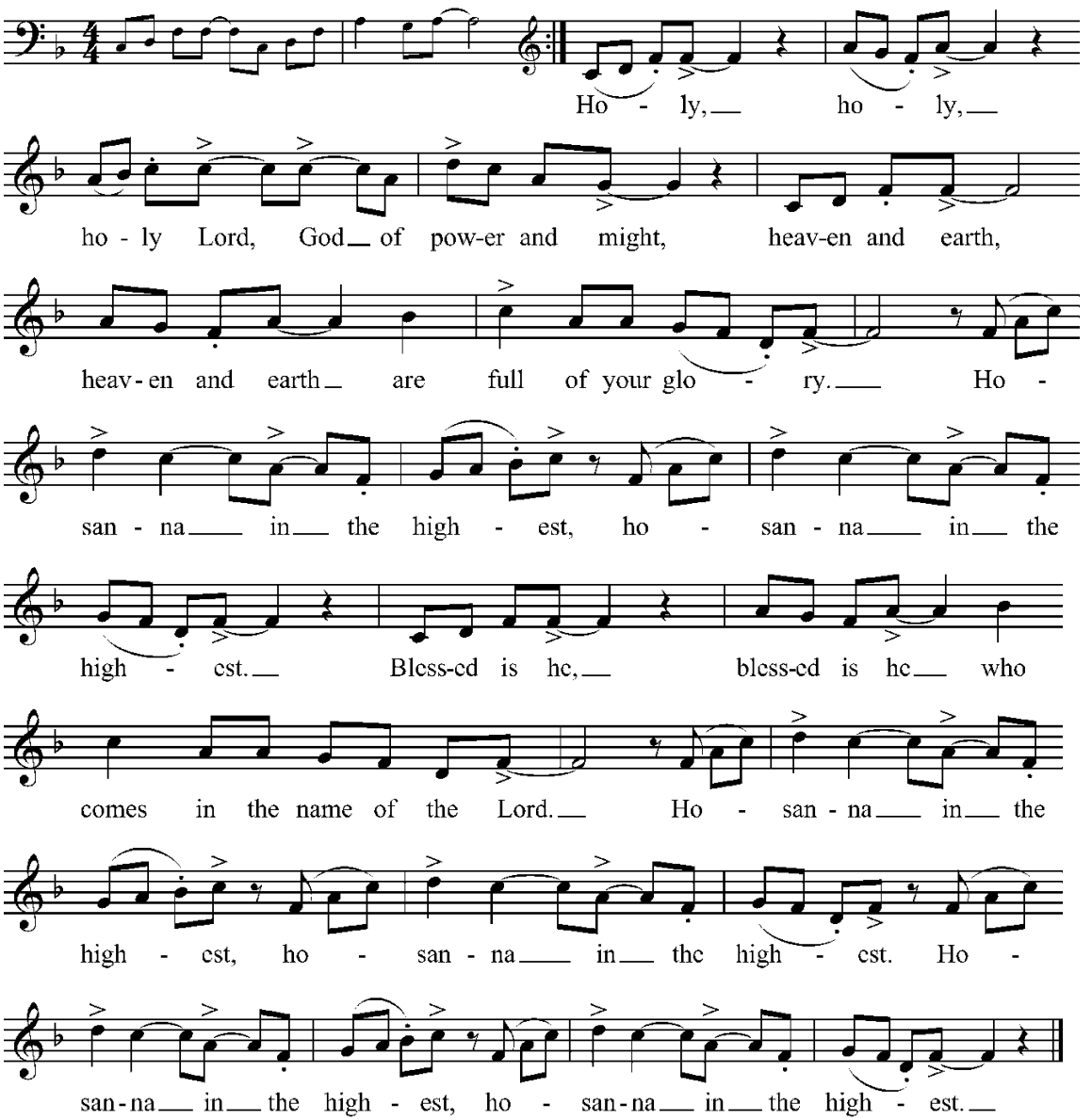
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord *Glover*



Words: from The Book of Common Prayer (1979) of the Episcopal Church USA.
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Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land

of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with St. Stephen and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, our Mother, 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE INVITATION

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Whoever you are, where ever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

All are welcome at God's table to receive Communion or a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available. Please use the hand sanitizer available in the pew before coming forward.

COMMUNION HYMN

H 325 Let us break bread together *Let Us Break Bread*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING *Source: Celtic*

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

H 492 Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness *Finnian*

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of the Risen Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP

Officiant:	The Rev. Paula J. Toland
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Karen Eberhardt
Minister of Music:	Kim Williams
Organist:	John Schucker
Altar Guild:	Julia, Maria
Chalicer/Crucifer:	Steve
Reader/Intercessor:	Barbara R, Kira
Greeter/Usher:	Barbara R, Roger
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour:	Margaret, Clara

Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)
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Upcoming Events

Details can be found in the weekly e-newsletter, which is available on our website.

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
4/26	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
4/27	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
4/28	6:30 PM	Breaking Bread with the Bishop (at Grace, Madison)
5/2	5:30 PM	Parish Game Night
5/3	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Reading with the Rector

TODAY!!! ST. STEPHEN'S FRIENDS OF MUSIC ORGAN RECITAL – This afternoon at 4:00pm, internationally renowned concert organist Damin Spritzer will present a special organ recital at St. Stephen's Church in Millburn. Though often promoting the works of lesser-known composers, Dr. Spritzer will focus on the music of the great Baroque master, Johann Sebastian Bach, for this performance.

General admission will be available at the door.
A $20 cash donation is suggested.
Artist's reception to follow the recital.

St. Stephen's Organ recitals are made possible through financial support from St. Stephen's Friends of Music. Tax deductible donations can be made to St. Stephen's, entitling sponsors

admission to the recital and acknowledgement in our organ recital programs. Donations to the Special Gifts - Friends of Music fund may be made online via Tithely.

LANDSCAPING – Traffic flow on the campus may be a bit irregular on Tuesday, April 28th. The final stage of the air conditioning project is the landscaping to obscure the external condensers. That work is being done this week.

WELCOMING A NEW CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTER – We are thrilled to announce that Julia Kaluzna, the new Children & Youth Minister will be joining us this week. Her first Sunday in next week, May 3rd.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"A diverse Episcopal parish, a life-giving sanctuary, a place where love begets love. Seekers, doubters, and believers find a comfortable place in our midst."

119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ 07041 / 973-376-0688 / ststephensmillburn.org
Rector: The Rev. Paula J. Toland; Emergency Contact: 508-542-1327
Parish Administrator: Maria T. Card

Minister of Music: Kim Williams; Organist: John Schucker

If you wish to receive the weekly e-newsletter, please contact the parish office at 973-376-0688 or church@ststephensmillburn.org.