

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1805 West Alabama Street | Houston, Texas 77098



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY & HOLY EUCHARIST

March 24, 2024 | 8:30 a.m

This Liturgy is taken from the *Book of Common Prayer*.

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

We are glad you are with us! St. Stephen's is an inclusive, nurturing, and healing community that seeks and invites all to practice the transformational and empowering work of Jesus Christ among us and in the world. We welcome everyone to join us for worship and life together—no exceptions!

NEW TO ST. STEPHEN'S?

Follow this QR code to our website and complete the online welcome card.



ALL ARE WELCOME TO WORSHIP WITH US!

During worship, all are invited to come forward for Holy Communion. If you would like to receive Communion but cannot come to the altar, please let an usher know so the sacrament can be brought to you. In addition to bread, you may receive wine by intinction (dipping your wafer into the chalice) or drinking directly from the chalice. You may choose to receive the bread only. If you prefer a blessing, indicate by crossing your arms in front of you. **Please note that the homemade bread at the 10:30 a.m. service is gluten free.** After church, please join us for hospitality!

CHILDREN

Children are welcome in the church and all parts of worship. You are welcome to make use of the dedicated area with books, art, and seasonal activities in the front right of the nave. Nursery care is also available from 8:30 a.m. to noon. During the readings and sermon portion of the 10:30 a.m. service, we offer a Children's Chapel led by trusted and trained volunteers.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are available adjacent to the Gathering Area. All are welcome to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

PARKING

Parking is available off W. Alabama in the lot in the church lot. Additional parking is available on the other side of the block at Woodhead and on both sides of Sul Ross. If you have a St. Stephen's magnet, please display it.

COVID PROTOCOLS

St. Stephen's is focused on safety. People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

TEXT TO GIVE

Send a text message to (833) 429-9199 with the word GIVE, the amount you wish to give, and the word OFFERING. For example, the text message "GIVE 25 OFFERING: would be a \$25 gift.

\$5,865 NEEDED TO MEET OUR GOAL OF 20K FOR OUR PARTNERS



families facing the challenges of dementia and Alzheimer's. They offer day programs, family caregiver support, and brain health education.

We have raised \$14,135 towards our goal. If you would like to give, please scan the QR code and select Easter Appeal from the drop-down menu. Alternatively, send a text message to (833) 429-9199 with the word GIVE, the amount you wish to give, and the word EASTER.

Between now and Easter, St. Stephen's wants to raise \$20,000 to support the community partners that help us minister to the greater Houston area. This week, we feature Amazing Place, whose mission is to empower



JUSTICE & ADVOCACY GROUP MEETS TODAY

If you are intrigued by the community partners we have featured in our Easter Campaign, you can learn more and discover how to get involved by joining the Justice & Advocacy Group today at noon in the Library.

FAITH LAB GATHERS TODAY

Faith Lab – a child-centered and family-oriented gathering over a meal, prayer, and play – will meet today at 5 p.m. in Pecore Hall. This is a wonderful, fun way to start your week.

SPECIAL GUEST TODAY



We are honored to host Bishop Héctor Monterroso today at the 10:30 a.m. service. Please give him a huge St. Stephen's welcome!

EASTER LILLIES

To donate lillies, scan the QR code or go to ssec.onechurchsoftware.com/giving and select In Honor of or In Memory of. In the text box, please type in the person(s) you are honoring or remembering. The suggested donation is \$20.



BIBLE GROUP STUDIES FIRST PETER

Come join the new Bible study on the First Epistle of Peter on Tuesday nights in the Gathering Area at 6:30pm. All are welcome!



Palm Sunday

March 24: 8:30 am, 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday

@ St. James Episcopal
3129 Southmore Blvd, Houston, TX 77004
March 28: 7:00 pm

Good Friday

March 29: noon, 7:00 pm

SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL

MARCH 30: 7:30 PM

EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM
EASTER EGG HUNT, 9:30 AM

 ststephenshouston.org

THE LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

Celebrant 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.**

GOSPEL: MARK 11:1-11A

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Blessed is he comes in the name of the Lord.

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

THE PROCESSION

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace

People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

HYMN

Valet will ich dir gehen

Refrain

All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to thee, Re - deem - er, King!

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.

1 Thou art the King of Is - ra - el, thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels is prais - ing thee on high;
 3 The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 4 To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
 5 Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Repeat Refrain

1 who in the Lord's Name com - est, the King and Bless - ed One.
 2 and we with all cre - a - tion in cho - rus make re - ply.
 3 our praise and prayers and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 4 to thee, now high ex - al - ted, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 5 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
 People **His mercy endures for ever.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.
 People **And also with you.**
 Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE LESSONS *Please be seated.*

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 50:4-9A

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM PSALM 31:9-16 *The Psalm is read responsively by verse.*

9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

**10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

**12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

**14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. *
I have said, "You are my God.**

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.”**

GOSPEL: MARK 14:1-15:47 *Remain standing.*

Mark: Here the passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him,

Pilate: “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Mark: He answered him,

Jesus: “You say so.”

Mark: Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again,

Pilate: “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”

Mark: But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them,

Pilate: “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

Mark: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again,

Pilate: “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

Mark: They shouted back,

The Crowd: “Crucify him!”

Mark: Pilate asked them,

Pilate: “Why, what evil has he done?”

Mark: But they shouted all the more,

Pilate: “Crucify him!”

Mark: So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him,

Soldiers: “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Mark: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Bystanders: “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!”

Mark: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying,

Scribes: “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.”

Mark: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the

afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice,

Jesus: "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

Mark: which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Bystander 1: "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

Mark: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying,

Bystander 2: "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

Mark: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

The Centurion: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Mark: There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

THE SERMON *Please be seated.*

Silence may follow.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY *Please be seated.*

To make an offering, send a text message to (833) 429-9199 with the word GIVE, the amount you wish to give, and the word OFFERING. For example, the text message

"GIVE 25 OFFERING" would be a \$25 gift.

To make a pledge or to make a one-time gift to St. Stephen's, please scan the QR Code.

It will take you to the One Church log-in page, where you can sign in and select "Give Now" on the top left of the dashboard.

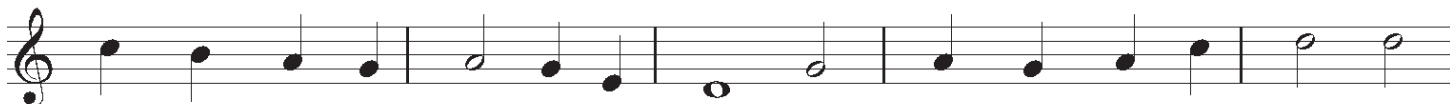


HYMN

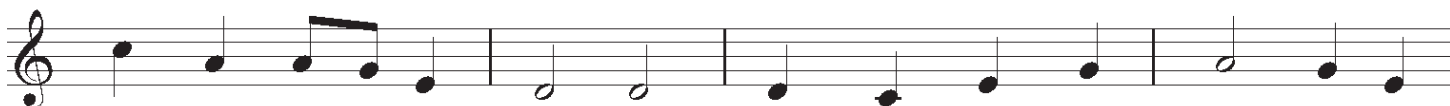
Unison



1 What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb, I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

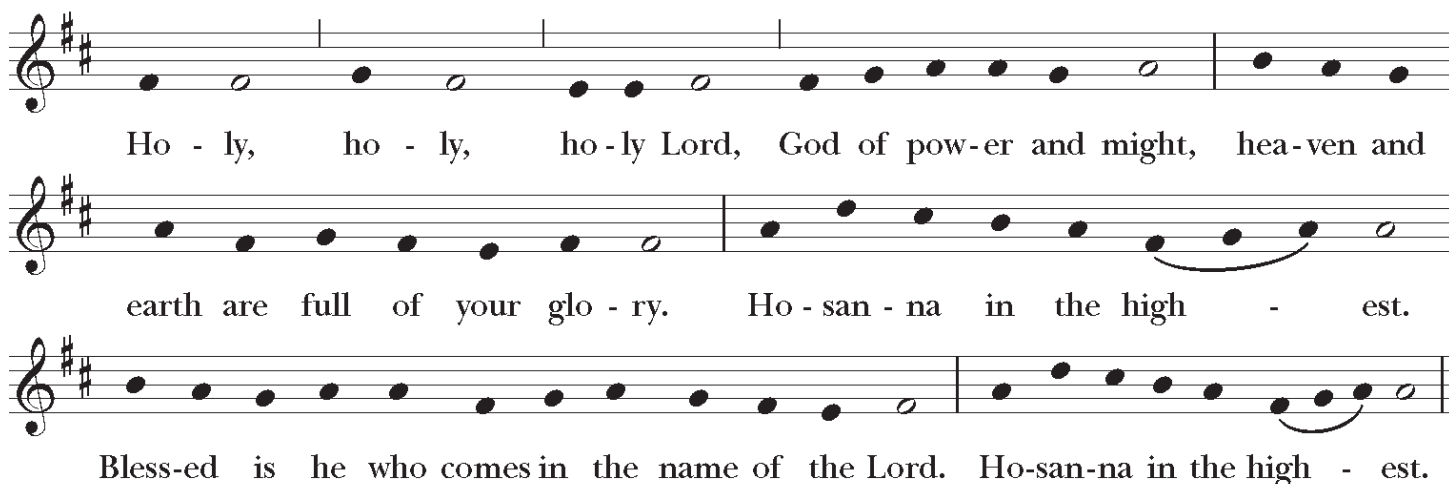
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Please stand.*

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. 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

David Hurd



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all.

He 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 Lord 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 he 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

AGNUS DEI

David Hurd

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

ANTHEM

“Jesu, Lover of My Soul”

Philip W. J. Stopford

Jesu, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide, till the storm of life be past;
Safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name; I am all unrighteousness.
False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound; make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art; freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *Please stand.*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The service concludes in silence.

PERSONS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICES

Altar Guild: Nancy Cook, Dwight Wolf

8:30 AM SERVICE

Reader: Christina Lovely

Usher: Eric Brown

Hospitality: Alexis Latner

Meet the Vestry: Christina Lovely

10:30 AM SERVICE

Readers: Charles Tanner (Epistle), Laura Thewalt (OT/Psalm),
Tom Seymour (Prayers)

Usher: Sam Marsh

Acolytes: Lucy Cockrum, Sondra Thewalt

Bread Baking: Melinda Flannery

Chalice Bearer: Lee Lozano

Children's Chapel: Paula Patterson, Marguerite Trent

Counting: David Morrell, John Wilson

Meet the Vestry: Mollie Smoak

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH VESTRY

Lucy Cockrum

Gail Creech

Michael Hawes, Jr. Warden

David Kelley

Cassandra Khatri

Christina Lovely

Dave Morrell, Sr. Warden

Christopher Nelson

Mollie Smoak

Katie Vestal

John Wilson

Julia Wolf

ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Rev. Lisa Hunt, President

Jaime Espinoza, Vice President

Sam Marsh, Secretary

Nikki Payne, Treasurer

Aaron Davis

Aly Dossa

Ryan Hackney

Nick Jones

Robert Little

Paula Patterson

Tamala Singleton

Tyler Swanson

Esteban Tirado



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WWW.STSTEPHENSHOUSTON.ORG

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Scan the QR code on the right for links to online content.



SUNDAY, MARCH 24

8:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Service – In-person

9:30 a.m. – Adult Formation

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Service – In-person & YouTube Channel

Noon – Walk In Love series, Summers

Noon – Justice & Advocacy Group, Library

5:00 p.m. – Faith Lab, Pecore Hall

MONDAY, MARCH 25

Noon – Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

6:30 p.m. – Bible Study in the Gathering Area, First Epistle of Peter

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

6:30 p.m. – Faith & Justice Group – on Zoom only

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

7:00 p.m. – Presence Group

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

8:00 a.m. – Rosary Group – In-person & on Zoom

ST. STEPHEN'S STAFF

Rector: The Reverend Lisa Hunt

lhunt@ststephenshouston.org

Associate Rector: The Reverend Ashley Dellagiacoma

adellagiacoma@ststephenshouston.org

Director of Music: Grace Sung

hsung@ststephenshouston.org

Director of Communications and Marketing: Brent Fogt

bfogt@ststephenshouston.org

Main Campus Administrator: Whitney Corson

wcorson@ststephenshouston.org

Parish Accounting Administrator: Hugo Banda

hbanda@ststephenshouston.org

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jill Carrington	1-Mar	Donna Inouye	15-Mar
Charles Lovely	1-Mar	Owen Tredennick	15-Mar
William Tredennick	2-Mar	Steven Bates	16-Mar
Megan Brannan	3-Mar	Chuck Hooten	16-Mar
Andrew Tolbert	5-Mar	Samuel West	16-Mar
Barbara Bennett	5-Mar	Julian Holland	17-Mar
John Beetle	5-Mar	Crystal Kitagawa	19-Mar
Gail Siegel	6-Mar	Liam Hackney	19-Mar
Andie Caroline Dorn	6-Mar	Louise Carstarphen	23-Mar
Madelyn Vestal	6-Mar	William West	23-Mar
Lakyn Keel	8-Mar	Alexis Latner	27-Mar
Cody Moore	10-Mar	Jennifer Richardson	27-Mar
Charlotte Wallin	11-Mar	Paloma Lee	28-Mar
Jeffery Scoggins	13-Mar	James Ozga	29-Mar
Patricia Batton	13-Mar	Aimee Demby	29-Mar
Jon Cerny	13-Mar	Mary Cole	30-Mar
Dwight Wolf	15-Mar	Joe Krenek	30-Mar