ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1805 West Alabama Street | Houston, Texas 77098



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER HOLY EUCHARIST

April 14, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.

This Liturgy is taken from A New Zealand Prayer Book.

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!

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.

SAVE THE DATE

A Celebration of the Ministry of Rev. Lisa Hunt MAY 19, 2024 PENTECOST

EASTER CAMPAIGN NEARS \$20K GOAL

We have raised \$18,735 of our \$20K goal. We are almost there! To donate, please scan the QR code.

TODAY! ADULT FORUM ON DEATH EQUITY

Catherine DeWitt, a graduate student at Prescott College will give a presentation on Death Equity during Adult Formation today at 9:30 a.m. as part of her Social Justice coursework. In her 30–45-minute presentation, she will share her research findings about broaching the topic of death and how we can better support community members in grief. Catherine is grateful for the opportunity to connect with St. Stephens' warm and welcoming community.

CCSC NEEDS

VOLUNTEERS

TO WORK IN

If you are interested,

the Open House is

an an opportunity

to drop in and find

out what would be

involved. Location:

5856 Bellaire Blvd.

GARDEN

CCSC Garden Open House Saturday, April 20 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (a come-and-go event)



NEW TO ST. STEPHEN'S?

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



LORD OF THE STREETS SPRING FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

This year's luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 11:30 a.m. at the Junior League of Houston at 11:30. If you are able to attend, please email Crystal Kitagawa at cakitagawa@ gmail.com and she will save a seat for you at the St. Stephen's table. Lord of the Streets (LOTS) desperately needs help in providing daily meals, Sunday breakfast, showers, mail service, clothing and glasses, a health clinic and spiritual help to those experiencing homelessness. Affordable housing is still in short supply, shelters are full, and evictions are increasing. We hope to raise \$300,000. to support our homeless families.

CCSC CLOTHING DRIVE

Please bring your gently worn clothes to church for our ministry partner CCSC between April 7 and May 5! Mens' and children's clothing are particularly needed. Underwear and socks must be new in wrapper. Visit <u>www.ccschouston.org</u> to learn more.



A weekend of fun just for us at Camp Allen!

Registration is now open for the very first Grande Texas Family Reunion – a weekend of fun at Camp Allen, just for us! Registration includes room, meals, snacks, select activities, evening socials, and entertainment. Hotel lodging is \$210 per room with a 4-person maximum. The fee for programming and meals is \$125 per person (kids age 2 and under are free). Activities include zip line, bounce houses, horseback riding, petting zoo, and more. There will be a live band performing each night Bishop Doyle will be leading worship Sunday morning. Please visit www.epicenter.org for more information.



THANKSGIVING FOR CREATION AND REDEMPTION THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND PRAYER

PRELUDE

"Feuillet d'album" from Sept Offrandes

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

All standing, the presiding priest or minister continues In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life. **Amen.**

THE SENTENCE OF THE DAY

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia.

HYMN *Please stand.* Regent Square me - ta - phor and my-st'ry, Christ of 1.Faith of pa - ra dox and pun, 2.God of li - ving, dy - ing, ri - sing God-dess: mai-den, mo - ther, crone, vi - si - ta - tion, Pa - ra - ble and 3.Pass - o ver and play - ful jest, ma - ny sta - ges, Sense and sen - ses, 4.Life in all its heart and head, Sure foun - da - tion, re - ve - la - tion Ma - ny fa - cets_ of the One, rock of a - ges, Love trans - for - ming hearts of stone. lo - sing, bind - ing, Ex - o - dus and_ he - ro's quest, Word of sa - ges, rock Seek-ing, fin-ding; ce - le - bra - tion, Hope new ri - sen Me - di - ta - tion, from the dead, Sa - cred in fa mi - liar things: Phase of moon, and bla - zing sun. ev - ery-day life: Spi - rit, bo - dy, breath and Mean - ing made in bone. Sa - cra-men-tal dai - ly liv-ing: Õ - pen door wel-come guest. and Mean - ing made in ev - ery-day life: Ma-king peace and break - ing bread.

Text © 2020 Bronwyn Angela White. Music © 2020 Amanda Udis-Kessler. www.spiritandfaithwords.com; https://queersacredmusic.com Permission is given for free use of this hymn. Denis Bedard

Luke 24:35 (adapted)

The minister continues

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator, the love at our beginning and without end, in our midst and with us.

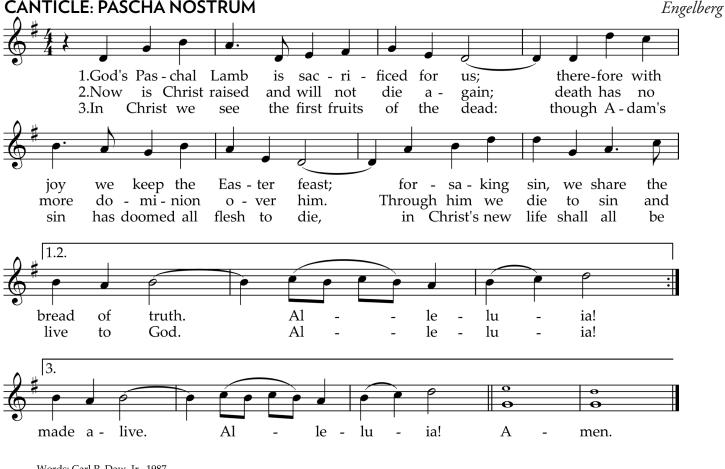
God is with us, here we find new life.

The minister continues

Let us give thanks for the coming of God's reign of justice and love.

Jesus Christ is good news for the poor, release for the captives, recovery of sight for the blind and liberty for those who are oppressed.

CANTICLE: PASCHA NOSTRUM



Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1987 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1904

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you. People And also with you. Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL Children are invited to come forward and process to Children's Chapel.

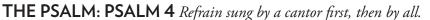
THE LESSONS Please be seated.

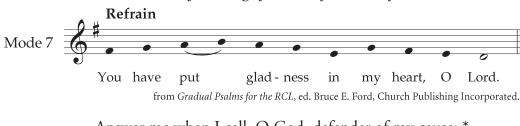
FIRST READING: ACTS 3:12-19

A reading from the Book of Acts.

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

ReaderHear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.PeopleThanks be to God.





Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; * you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; * how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?" **Refrain.**

Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; * when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me. Tremble, then, and do not sin; * speak to your heart in silence upon your bed. Offer the appointed sacrifices * and put your trust in the Lord. *Refrain.*

Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" * Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O Lord. You have put gladness in my heart, * more than when grain and wine and oil increase. I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; * for only you, Lord, make me dwell in safety. *Refrain.*

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 3:1-7

A reading from the first letter of John.

Reader

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not vet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Thanks be to God. People **HYMN** *Please stand.* Amanda Udis-Kessler 1.In the break - ing of_ the bread,___ in the tel - ling of_ the stothe pas - sing of_ the peace,___ in prac - tice of com-pas heal - ing of_ the sick, in the emp - ty - ing___ of pri-In the drin-king of____ the cup,__ life. love to ry, comes In the wel-come we___ makes sion,_ em - brace,___ love а way._ In the work we do____ sons, for jus tice, love is spread. To Coda 🕀 in the feed-ing of____ In the sha-ring of_ the meal,___ the hun In the ten - der - ness_ in the time we take_ lis we show,___ to In the ca - ring for___ in the hous-ing of____ the poor,___ the home We re-mem-ber all____ the gifts_____ that love pro-vides. 2.In the gry, ten, We em - bo - dy love's great bles-sing ev - ery day._ 3.In the Coda In the hope we bring the hope - less, less, we let go of a - lone our ò

the

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bread._

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New hymns: queersacredmusic.com. Permission is given for free use of this song.

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GOSPEL: LUKE 24:36B-48 Please stand.

PriestThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.People**Praise and glory to God.**

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Priest	This is the Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to Christ, the Word.

SERMON *Please be seated.*

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Please stand.

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presider: Dear friends, the risen Lord has greeted us with peace and commissioned us to preach forgiveness to all nations. We join together in praying for healing and freedom for all humankind.

Reader: We pray for the world-wide community of faith, that by lives of love Christians everywhere will bear joyful witness to Christ's victory over sin and death. *Pause for silent prayer* **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for the human family in these times of rupture and division, that by the grace of God a new spirit of hope will free all people to work together for peace. *Pause for silent prayer* **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for repentance for our failure to care for creation, that with our sin forgiven we will renew our pledge to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. *Pause for silent prayer* **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for all who have suffered abuse from church personnel and for their abusers, that the mercy of the risen Lord will bring them healing and peace. *Pause for silent prayer* **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for an end to words and actions that belittle and dehumanize others, that every human being will receive the respect that is their right as a child of God. *Pause for silent prayer* **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for mayors, council members, and local government officers, that they will serve their community with dedication, integrity and care for the common good. *Pause for silent prayer* **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for young people struggling to cope with mental illness, that they will be blessed with the support of family, friends and professional services. *Pause for silent prayer* **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for the parents of young and adolescent children, that they will delight in seeing them grow and flourish. *Pause for silent prayer* **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for the recently deceased . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be led by their Good Shepherd to the banquet of eternal life. *Pause for silent prayer* **Lord, hear us.**

Presider: Mighty God and fount of mercy, you have reconciled us to yourself in Christ. Make our hearts burn with love for you. We ask this through the same Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen**.

(https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/pop-3-easter-year-b)

THE PEACE

CelebrantThe peace of God be with you all.PeopleIn God's justice is our peace.

The presiding priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace according to local custom.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS 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.

OFFERTORY

ANTHEM

"O Sacred Feast"

O sacred feast, wherein Christ is received, the memory of his passion is renewed in us, our souls are filled with grace, and the pledge of everlasting glory is given unto us. Alleluia.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Please stand.

Celebrant	Christ is risen!
People	He is risen indeed.
Celebrant	Lift your hearts to heaven
People	where Christ in glory reigns.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to God.
People	It is right to offer thanks and praise

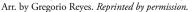
It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe, to give you thanks through Jesus Christ. You said, 'Let there be light'; there was light. Your light shines on in our darkness. For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms. You have created us to hear your Word, to do your will and to be fulfilled in your love. It is right to thank you. You sent your Son to be for us the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know.

Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again: Christ is sovereign over space and time. You send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide, to warn and to revive your Church. Therefore, with all your witnesses who surround us on every side, countless as heaven's stars, we praise you for our creation and our calling, with loving and with joyful hearts:



Healey Willan





Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son, who washed his disciples' feet. 'I am among you,' he said, 'as one who serves.' On that night before he died he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me. After supper, he took the cup, and gave you thanks. He gave it to them and said: Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sin; do this to remember me. Therefore with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us.

God of the past and present, we your people remember your Son. We thank you for his cross and rising again, we take courage from his ascension; we look for his coming in glory and in him we give ourselves to you.

Send your Holy Spirit, that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.

For you, the heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first. **Praise, glory and love be yours, this and every day, from us and all people, here and everywhere. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ teaches us we 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 for ever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the bread in silence and then saysCelebrantChrist's body was broken for us on the cross.PeopleChrist is the bread of life.

The celebrant may lift the cup.

Celebrant His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

People Christ is risen from the dead.

THE INVITATION

Lifting the bread and cup, the priest invites the people, saying Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

The presiding priest and people receive communion.

COMMUNION *Please be seated.*



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HYMN

Union Seminary



Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt. Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958 Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931. Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION Please stand.

Blessed be God who calls us together. **Praise to God who makes us one people.**

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin. **Praise to God who gives hope and freedom.**

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed. **Praise to God who is revealed as love.**

Blessed be God who alone has called us. Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise. Amen. Accept our thanks for all you have done. Our hands were empty, and you filled them.

THE DISMISSAL OF THE COMMUNITY

May Christ who out of defeat brings new hope and new alternatives, bring you new life and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always. **Amen**.





THE DISMISSAL

CelebrantLet us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.PeopleThanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Victimae Paschali Laudes

Denis Bedard

PERSONS ASSISTING IN TODAY'S SERVICES

Altar Guild: Nancy Cook, Dwight Wolf Lay Eucharistic Visitors: Zack Coapland, Thomas Seymour 8:30 A.M. WORSHIP Reader: Kenneth Wiesehuegel

Usher: Mary Murray Hospitality: Gail Creech

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

Readers: Reader0 needed Rebecca Udden (1st Lesson), Max Zimmerman (Epistle/2nd Lesson), Thomas Seymour (Prayer) Usher: Sam Marsh Acolyte: John Rovell Bread Baking: Susan Raine Childeren's Chapel: Katie Hogan, Marguerite Trent Counting: Lucy Cockrum, Kathryn Vestal Hospitality: Cathlyne Camp-Murray

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 Lucie Tredennick Rebecca Udden Julia Wolf, Vestry Liaison

> 1805 W. ALABAMA ST. HOUSTON, TEXAS 77098

713.528.6665 STSTEPHENSHOUSTON.ORG

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 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

MONDAY, APRIL 15 Noon - Bible Study on Zoom

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 6:30 p.m. - Bible Study in the Gathering Area, First Epistle of Peter

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 6:30 p.m. – Faith & Justice Group – on Zoom only 6:30 p.m. - Youth Game Night, Havens

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 7:00 p.m. - Presence Group

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 8:00 a.m. – Rosary Group 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 bfoqt@ststephenshouston.org Main Campus Administrator: Whitney Corson wcorson@ststephenshouston.org Parish Accounting Administrator: Hugo Banda hbanda@ststephenshouston.org

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Casey Hackney April 2 **Phoenix Flores** Marlon Trent April 3 Mary Bradley Siobhan LeRoy April 4 Kathryn Vestal Christopher Nelson April 5 April 5 Mary Murray Brandie Minchew-Gonzalez April 26 John Marsh April 6 Wilmer McCorguodale Helen Sestak Harper Little April 10 Joe Castleberry April 10 **Ryan Balazs** William Perkison Steven Catanich April 11 **Elizabeth Hawes** April 15 John Wilson Tom Killian April 15 Nicholas Mitchell-Jones April 19 Esteban Tirado April 21 John Cornwell April 23 Zack Coapland April 24



April 25

April 25

April 26

April 26

April 26

April 27

April 27

April 28