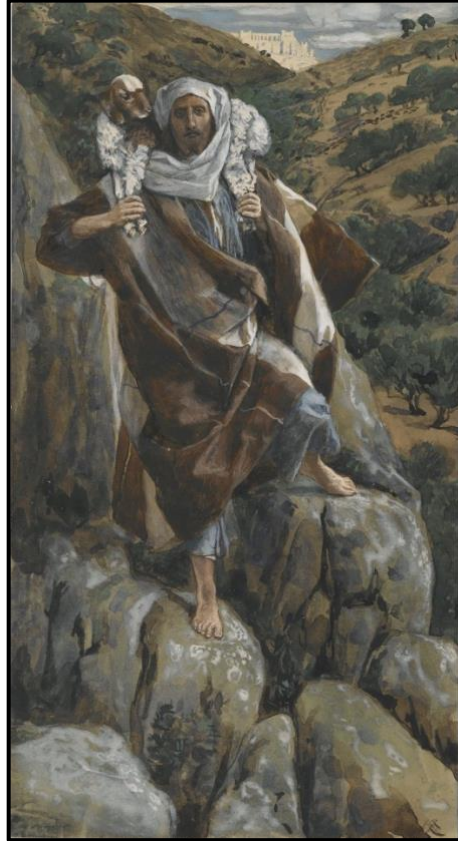




SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II  
SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

---



*James Tissot "The Good Shepherd (Le bon pasteur)", 1886-1894*

## **The Word of God**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

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.*

## **Hymn of Praise**

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
    have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
    receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
    Jesus Christ,  
    with the Holy Spirit,  
    in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Celebrant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*        And also with you.

*Celebrant*     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.*

### **A Reading from the Book of Acts (4:5-12),**

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord

*People*        Thanks be to God

### **Psalm 23**

1 The Lord is my shepherd; \*

    I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

    and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul \*

    and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 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, they comfort me.

5 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.

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

**A Reading from the First Letter of John (3:16-24),**

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord

*People*        Thanks be to God

**The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (10:11-18),**

*Reader*        The Gospel of the Lord

*People*        Praise to you, Lord Christ

**Sermon**

**The Nicene Creed**

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:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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 and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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 VI**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;

*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Michael Curry our Presiding Bishop, and Marty Stebbins our Bishop; and for all bishops  
and other ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence*  
*The People may add their own petitions*

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church in Japan.

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for St. Luke's, Billings and the Rev. Melinda St. Clair,  
Rector.

In our St. Stephen's community, we pray for Dorothy, Miles, Nick and Melissa, Susan.

Hear us, Lord;  
*For your mercy is great.*

*The Celebrant concludes*  
Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may  
obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And also with you.

*Please exchange the peace verbally from where you are and refrain from  
touching those outside of your household.*

## **Offertory**

## **HOLY COMMUNION – RITE II - Eucharistic Prayer A**

*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 Him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for He is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By His death He has destroyed death, and by His rising to life again He has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

*Then the Celebrant continues*

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.

*The Celebrant continues*

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.**

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

*Officiant and People*

Our Father, 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**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*Celebrant then says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

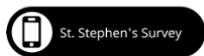
Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

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**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



---

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church is a part of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana

1241 Crawford Drive

Billings, Montana 59102

Office Phone: (406) 259-5017

Email: [ststephensmt@gmail.com](mailto:ststephensmt@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at [ststephensbillings.org](http://ststephensbillings.org)



*Donate via PayPal*