

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany: March 2, 2025



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1935 The Plaza
Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue
Schenectady, New York 12309
518-346-6241; office@st-stephens.church

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
The Last Sunday after the Epiphany,
March 2, 2025
The Entrance Rite

The Prelude *Balm in Gilead* Hailstork
Opening Hymn Hymnal #7

The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation Page #355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
People: **And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Collect for Purity Page #355

All: **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 Hymnal S-280

All: **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.**

The Collect of the Day Page #164

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: O God, who before the passion of your only -begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Exodus 34:29-35

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus:

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 99

- 1 The Lord is King;
let the people tremble; *
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;
let the earth shake.
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion; *
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; *
he is the Holy One.
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice,
you have established equity; *
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and fall down before his footstool; *
he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, *
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; *
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; *
you were a God who forgave them,
yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy hill; *
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Lector: A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put

a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #671

The Holy Gospel

Luke 9:28-43a

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Jane Brady-Close

The Nicene Creed

Page #358

All: **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 IV

Page #388

Intercessor: Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Today we pray for The Anglican Church of Burundi in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. We pray also for our church leaders: the Church of England and the Anglican Communion and for the discernment of the Crown Nomination Committee; Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Jane Brady-Close, our visiting priest.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Give life and health to our church and community, and call and inspire the priest who will serve as our rector. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit including all in our church family prayer list. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

(The Celebrant adds the concluding Collect.)

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Page #360

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **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.**

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

People: **Amen.**

The Peace

Page #360

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

The Spirit's Gift of Love

Lovelace

The Doxology

V.3, Hymnal #380

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

Page #361

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.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

All: **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.**

Celebrant: 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:

All: **Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: 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.

People: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today 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

Page #364

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation

Page #364

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Celebrant: Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Celebrant/Minister: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

Communion Hymn

Hymnal #321

Post-Communion Prayer

Page #365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **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.**

The Concluding Rite

The Blessing

Page #366

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #129

The Dismissal:

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Kingsfold Trumpet

Fedak

**Our Intercessions
for the week of March 2, 2025**

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Burundi.

Our Leaders: Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady.

Our Church Leaders: Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Mtr. Jane Brady-Close our Celebrant.

The Church of England and the Anglican Communion, and for discernment of members of the Crown Nomination Commission.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in need of strength and healing: Mary Ann Harrington, Marilyn Causey, Vincent Avila, Peter Nelson, Basil Dewdney, Austin Spang, Katherine Webber, Don Regula, Chris Morin, Marshall Cohen, Helen Perkins, Perrin, Denise Crates, William O., Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Diana Belardo, Linda, Ann M., Joyce C., Billy K., Lee H., Tomaso, Millie G., and Pope Francis.

For all those abused as young people while under the care of church and other institutions, that they will find justice and healing.

For all public employees that they may continue their work for justice, peace, and the common good, and for all those who live in fear.

For those in the Military: Zachary.

Announcements

March 2, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant:	Mtr. Jane Brady-Close
	Altar Guild:	Jean Stefanski
	Greeters:	Dave Crates Ron Stefanski
	Crucifer:	George Woodzell
	Eucharistic Ministers:	Basil Dewdney George Woodzell
	Lector:	Richey Woodzell
	Intercessor:	Don Csaposs
	Counter:	Bob Brockway
	Coffee Hour:	Dave and Denise Crates

Today we again welcome Mtr. Jane Brady-Close as our guest Celebrant and Preacher.

Today's Altar flowers are given by Jo Adams in honor of her daughter's birthday, and Carole Merrill-Mazurek in honor of Budd's birthday.

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) is the composer of today's prelude. He grew up in Albany where he sang in the choir of the Cathedral of All Saints in his youth. Well-known for his orchestral, choral, and chamber works, Dr. Hailstork is Professor Emeritus and Eminent Scholar at Old Dominion University. His works blend musical ideas from the African, American, and European traditions.

The Service Committee will meet today in the Youth Lounge following the service.

Donations for Sycamore Collaborative: For March, we are continuing to collect spices and seasonings.

Mark your calendars! Don't miss the traditional Pancake Supper this Tuesday, March 4, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, marking the last time for festivities before Lent begins on Wednesday. The menu includes all-you-can-eat pancakes (gluten free available), sausages, applesauce and beverages. This year, instead of charging per person/family for the meal, we will be requesting a freewill offering. Bring your family, your friends, and your appetite! Volunteers are needed to help set up, cook, serve, and clean up. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

Palms: If you haven't already, please bring in last year's palms before Tuesday, March 4.

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday is next Sunday, March 9. We will have special Prayers of the People and the loose plate offering that day will go to their programs. There will also be envelopes and flyers in the pews. March 9 is also **Change Day**, when we move the clocks ahead! Bring in your change for Episcopal Relief & Development as well.

MoonBee, 4/5, 10 a.m.-Noon. St. Stephen's is hosting another MoonBee for The MoonCatchers Project, an organization whose mission is to optimize girls' lives world-wide by removing barriers related to menstruation. This is a community event where individuals come together for two hours to help create MoonCatcher Kits. Bring your sewing machine if you have one. Even if you can't sew, you can participate. There are useful jobs for everyone! Questions: Ask Richey Woodzell.

UPCOMING EVENTS

At St. Stephen's

Tuesday, 3/4, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.: Pancake Supper.

Wednesday, 3/5, Ash Wednesday Services:

12:00 p.m.: Holy Eucharist.

7:00 p.m.: Prayer Service.

Thursday, 3/6, 7:00 p.m.: Chancel Choir rehearsal.

March 9: Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday AND “Change Day.”

Saturday, 4/5, 10:00 a.m.: MoonBee for the MoonCatcher Project in Begley Hall.

Sunday, 4/13: Palm Sunday

Friday, 4/18: Good Friday

Sunday, 4/20: Easter

Welcome!

We are glad you have chosen to worship and give thanks to God with us.

WORSHIP: The Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Brief prayers for healing and anointing are offered in the library after Mtr. Jane finishes greeting the departing congregation. Join us for refreshments most Sundays in Begley Hall after our service.

Members of the parish offer Morning Prayer on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, and 8:00 a.m. on Sunday. Please contact the church office for the link.

Other services are announced.

HYMNS: Our hymns are posted on hymn boards and are listed in our bulletin. They are drawn from the blue *Hymnal* and the black-and-red *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. “Service music,” indicated with an “S” before the number, comes at the beginning of the *Hymnal*. Hymns come in the second section. Hymns from *Lift Every Voice and Sing* are preceded by an “LEV.”

CHILDREN: We are delighted to have children of all ages and love hearing their voices. You may find your children are more engaged if you sit closer to the front of the church. We offer a children’s sermon when children are present and post a brief children’s message each week on our website. The greeters can give them an activity pack. There is a nursery with toys and a comfortable chair if you would like to take a break from the service with your child or find a quiet place to nurse. In the Episcopal Church it is customary for parents to determine the appropriate age for children to take communion. We can always offer “first communion” instruction to you/your children.

COMMUNION: All baptized persons may receive Holy Communion. If you do not wish to take the bread (wafer) or the wine, place your arms across your chest and a member of the clergy will ask God's blessing upon you and on any children not yet receiving communion. If you would like the elements brought to your seat, please speak with a greeter.

FOR THOSE WITH ALLERGIES: If you would like to receive communion wafers that are gluten-wheat-yeast-dairy-egg-soy-nut- and corn-free at Communion, please ask for one from the ministers distributing communion.

OFFERTORY: During the offertory, the greeters take up a collection for funds which support the church and our various ministries. Many people pledge annual support, which is helpful in developing our budget. All contributions are welcomed.

MASKS: The use of masks is optional. The greeters can provide you with one if you like.

CONVERSATION / PASTORAL VISITS are available. Please contact Mtr. Jane or the Parish Office.

MEMBERSHIP: We welcome visitors from other churches as well as those for whom church is a new experience. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to talk with you about becoming a member. Please speak with a warden or fill out a pew card for someone to contact you.

BUILDING SECURITY: Only the main church door and the door to the parking lot will be unlocked on Sundays. At other times, please call the church office if you need access.

LABYRINTH: Our labyrinth, in the courtyard between the church and Begley Hall, is an adaptation of the millennia-old classical type. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path in and out; there are no tricks or dead ends. The path winds from the exterior to the center and can become a mirror for our journey of life, touching our sorrows and releasing our joys. Walk it with an open mind and an open heart. Instructions are available at the back of the church.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: Please be in touch with the parish office if you have suggestions for this ministry.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Prayer request sheets can be found on the lectern in the back of the church. You can place anyone on our "Prayer Chain" by contacting Suzanne Taylor at popage@aol.com or by contacting the parish office. Please get the permission of those you add for their names to be used. We will include your request for four weeks in our services of Morning Prayer and count on you to keep us updated.

COMMUNICATION: You may contact us at 518-346-6241 (Office Phone); office@st-stephens.church (e-mail); <https://st-stephens.church> (website); and <https://www.facebook.com/SaintStephensSchenectady>. The Parish Office is generally open Mondays-Fridays from 8:30-11:30 a.m

Church Staff & Lay Leaders:

Mr. George Woodzell, Senior Warden
Ms. Carole Merrill-Mazurek, Junior Warden
Ms. Susan Lohnas, Organist
Dr. Douglas Lohnas, Director of the Choir
Mr. Jon Ewbank, Office Manager
Ms. Denise Crates, Treasurer
Ms. Theresa Fay, Clerk

Vestry

Ms. Ruth Basantes Ms. Denise Crates
Mr. Basil Dewdney Mrs. Linda Emaelaf
Ms. Vicki Hoshko Mr. Stan Jakubowski
Ms. Deborah O'Connor Ms. Jean Stefanski



(Artwork: “The Transfiguration with Christ flanked by two saints and with the Apostles below.”
Engraving by Cherubino Alberti, Italian, 1553–1615. From the The Elisha Whittelsey Collection of
the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY)