

The Sunday of the Resurrection
Easter Day
April 20, 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 Altar Flowers for Easter

Were given by:

Mary Beam Alexander
In memory of
John and Dorothy Beam

Diana and Sal Belardo
In memory of
William and Mary Buckley
Anthony and Mary Belardo
Our Loved Ones

Basil Dewdney
In memory of
Trevor Dewdney

Mildred Gittinger
In memory of
Loved Ones

The Humphrey Family
In memory of
Don, David and Samantha

Evan Love
In memory of
Cynthia Love

Debbie O'Connor
In memory of
Ambrose and Dolores Babella
Pamela Guthrie

Joe and Sara Palko
In memory of
Cornell and Palko Family Members

Dave and Suzanne Taylor
In memory of
Loved Ones

Jean and Judy Versocki
In honor of
Loved Ones

George and Richey Woodzell
In memory of
Patricia Jones

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
The Sunday of the Resurrection,
Easter Day
April 20, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude

Variations on "O Filii et Filiae"

Lasky

Processional Hymn

Hymnal #207

The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation

Page #355

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

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-278

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 #222

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Acts 10:34-43

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:
Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Lector: 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.
2 Let Israel now proclaim, *
"His mercy endures for ever."
14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.
15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:
16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"
17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.
18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.
19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.
20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."
21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.
22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.
23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Lector: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.
If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #191

The Holy Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

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

Celebrant: On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

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 Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui. 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.
- People:* 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
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, especially Katherine Webber, 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 a 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

Easter Day Alleluia

Beall/Harlan

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.

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal S-128

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

Page #364

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.
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 #204

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

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #205

The Dismissal

Page 366

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia, Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Postlude

Sortie on "St. Kevin"

Smith

Our Intercessions
for the week of April 20, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

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 and Preacher.

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, Helen Perkins, Perrin, Denise Crates, William O., Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Diana Belardo, Linda, Ann M., Joyce C., Billy K., Lee H., Millie G., Doreen M., Leslie, and Pope Francis.

For those who have died: Katherine Webber.

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, for those who have lost their jobs, and for all those who live in fear.

For those in the Military: Zachary.

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Announcements

April 20, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant	Mtr. Jane Brady-Close
	Altar Guild:	Carolyn Morin Basil Dewdney
	Greeters:	Dave Crates Vicki Hoshko
	Paschal Candle Bearer:	George Woodzell
	Eucharistic Ministers:	Basil Dewdney George Woodzell
	Lector:	Marilyn Humphrey
	Intercessor:	Ruth Basantes
	Counter:	Diana Belardo
	Coffee Hour:	Erin Cohen George and Richey Woodzell

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

Episcopal Relief & Development: Today is the last day for our fundraiser for Episcopal Relief & Development to help in their programs for sustainable healthy communities and disaster recovery and resilience. You may use the envelopes on the table in the back of the church, make contributions online at episcopalrelief.org.

“The Messenger” deadline: Please submit articles, pictures, announcements, etc. for inclusion in the May issue of the newsletter to Jon no later than close of business, tomorrow, Monday, April 21st. Email preferred to: office@st-stephens.church.

Family Promise Presentation: Next Sunday, April 27, Mary Giordano, Executive Director of Family Promise of the Capital Region (FPCR), will speak during coffee hour about their ministry to homeless families and how we might be involved. We will meet in the Youth Lounge.

Food Pantry donations: Please contribute soap, body wash and menstrual supplies during April.

Schenectady CROP Walk for the Hungry is Sunday, May 4. Registration will begin at noon, and the Opening Ceremony will start at 1 pm, with the Walk to follow. This year we will be walking from St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish School, 1801 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12309. Sign up in the nave extension to walk and take a sponsor envelope. If you can't participate in the walk, please sponsor St. Stephen's team at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/st-stephens-episcopal-church-3>.

Altar Flower Sign Up: The sign-up sheet for providing flowers for the altar for the coming summer and fall seasons is on the table in the nave extension. Please take a moment to choose a date.

Safe Church: The deadline for finishing the Praesidium Modules is the first weekend in May, for all those involved in St. Stephen's ministries. If you have questions, ask Doreen May.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 4/27, 11:00 a.m.: Family Promise Presentation.

Monday, 4/28, 7:00 p.m.: Worship Committee meeting.

Sunday, 5/4: Schenectady CROP Walk for the hungry.

Deadline for completion of Praesidium Safe Church modules.

Monday, 5/12, 7:00 p.m.: Vestry meeting.

Tuesday, 5/13, 1:00 p.m.: Book Club meeting.

Welcome!

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

WORSHIP: The Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer: Sundays at 9:30 a.m. 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. 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 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.

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:

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

Vestry

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

Artwork: Stained Glass Roundel “The Resurrection”
Made in Upper Rhineland, Germany 1480–90
From the Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY
On view at The Met Cloisters in Gallery 10