

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 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 II

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude

Honeysuckle Cottage/Randolph Farewell
Sarah Parker, Violinist

Jensen/Siess

The Gathering Prayer

Processional Hymn

Hymnal #618

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

Celebrant: 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.

People: **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 #224

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.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Acts 9:36-43

Lector: Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 23

Lector: 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.

The Second Lesson

Revelation 7:9-17

Lector: A reading from the Revelation of John.

Lector: I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #645

The Holy Gospel

John 10:22-30

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant: At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Rev. Canon Richard Visconti

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 Nippon Sei Ko Kai. 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, the Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah, the Bishop of Albany; and Richard, our Interim Priest-in-Charge.

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 on 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 and Pope Francis, 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 Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Brother James's Air

Jacob

The Doxology

V.3, Hymnal #380

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

Page #367

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: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

All: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

All: **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 #691

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 #334

The Dismissal

Page 366

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

The Postlude

Exultemus

Rawsthorne

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Our Intercessions
for the week of May 11, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Nippon Sei Ko Kai .

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 Richard Visconti, Interim Priest-in-Charge.

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, Don Regula, Chris Morin, Helen Perkins, Perrin, Denise Crates, William O., Mtr. Sally Heiligman, Diana Belardo, Linda, Ann M., and Billy K.

For those who have died: Katherine Webber, and Pope Francis.

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

May 11, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant	The Rev. Canon Richard Visconti
	Altar Guild:	Jean Stefanski
	Greeters:	Dave Crates Doreen May
	Eucharistic Ministers:	George Woodzell Basil Dewdney
	Lector:	Ruth Basantes
	Intercessor:	John Artieda Basantes
	Counter:	Doreen May
	Coffee Hour:	George and Richey Woodzell

Today we again welcome Sarah Parker, daughter of Jean and Ron Stefanski, as our violin soloist.

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Debbie O'Connor in honor of family and friends.

The *Forward Day by Day* for May/June/July is available on the table in the nave extension. There are both large print and pocket-sized versions available.

The May issue of *The Messenger* is also available on the table in the nave extension. The deadline for submission of articles, items or pictures for the June issue is Monday, May 26.

Sycamore Collaborative Pantry: Thank you for the donations of menstrual pads last month. During May, please contribute baby wipes and disposal diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6.

StreetSoldiers Schenectady: Watch the bulletin announcements for the next lunch-making Sunday during coffee hour.

May 4 CROP Walk for the Hungry: Thank you for over \$500 in donations! St. Stephen's contributed \$300 in checks, \$85 in cash and at least \$125 online to fight hunger in Schenectady and abroad.

Church World Service Kits: The Fabricators & Yarners have made 35 bags for CWS Kids Kits, to provide supplies for children in areas of disaster in the US and around the world. Prior donations have filled 13 of them; can you help fill the rest? At the display in the nave extension, please leave a donation in the red can or sign up to purchase some of the items - then take a matching slip. The deadline for donations of money and items is next Sunday, May 18. We will meet on Saturday, May 24 at 10:00 a.m. to sort items and pack the kits. Join us if you like! If you have questions, contact Richey Woodzell.

From Episcopal Relief & Development Spring Match: No community can be healthy and whole unless all its members are treated with dignity and respect. Your gift today supports women and children at the community level – now with double the impact. During Episcopal Relief & Development's Spring Match, all gifts DOUBLE up to \$350,000. Create lasting change. Match your gift NOW through June 6 by clicking the link: <https://support.episcopalrelief.org/springmatch25>.

The Pastoral Care Committee will meet on Sunday, May 25, following the service. They will meet in the Teen Lounge.

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, June 22, we will be holding our end-of-program-year picnic in the Parish Hall after the Sunday morning service. There is a sheet in the back of the church to sign up for set-up, grilling, and clean-up. There is also a sheet to sign up to bring a dish to share.

A Red Cross blood drive will be held in the parish hall on Friday, July 25, 1- 6 p.m., with Christine MacPherson as coordinator and a church member present. Consider donating blood to save a life. From the Red Cross website: "Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. It is essential for surgeries, cancer

treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation.”

Sign-up Sheets: Please consider choosing a date to donate your time and/or talents by providing flowers for the altar and/or hosting a coffee hour. There are sign-up sheets for these ministries on the table in the nave extension.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Thursday, 5/15, 7:00 p.m.: Chancel choir Rehearsal.

Sunday, 5/18, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Deadline for CWS School Kit donations.

Service Committee meeting during Coffee Hour.

Monday, 5/19: 7:00 p.m.: Worship Committee meeting.

Saturday, 5/24, 10:00 a.m.: Sort/pack CWS Kids Kits, Begley Hall.

Sunday, 5/25, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Pastoral Care Committee meeting following the service.

Sunday, 6/22: Parish Picnic.

Friday, 7/25, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.: Red Cross Blood Drive.

Church Staff & Lay Leaders:

Rev. Can. Richard Visconti, Interim Priest-in-Charge

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

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. Rev. Can. Richard Visconti can be contacted at 518-637-7736 or rvisconti@st-stephens.church.