The Third Sunday after Pentecost June 29, 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 Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 29, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude Prière à Notre Dame Boëllmann

The Gathering Prayer

The Processional Hymn Hymnal #525

The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation Page #355

Celebrant: Blessed Be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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-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 #230

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

> Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the

Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

People: Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson 1 Kings 19:15-16,19-21

Lector:

A reading from the First Book of Kings.

The LORD said to Elijah, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

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

The Psalm Psalm 16

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."

- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, * upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods * shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, * nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; * it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; * indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; * my heart teaches me, night after night.
- 8 I have set the LORD always before me; * because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
- 9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; * my body also shall rest in hope.
- 10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, * nor let your holy one see the Pit.
- 11 You will show me the path of life; *
 in your presence there is fullness of joy,
 and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The Second Lesson Galatians 5:1,13-25

Lector: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galations.

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

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

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #513

The Holy Gospel

Luke 9:51-62

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant: When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusa-

lem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

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

The 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.

The Prayers of the People Form III

Page #387

Intercessor: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one. *People:*

Intercessor: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people. People:

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; Intercessor:

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Intercessor: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; That there may be justice and peace on the earth. People:

Intercessor: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; That our works may find favor in your sight. People:

Intercessor: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress. *People:*

Give to the departed eternal rest. *Intercessor:* People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Intercessor: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom. People:

Intercessor: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The 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 AnthemSerenity
Franck

The Doxology V.3, Hymnal #380

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A Page #372

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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.

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.

For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to

new life in 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymnal S-129

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.

Page #364

People: AMEN.

Page #364 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

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

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

Lamb of God Hymnal S-161

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

grant us peace.

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.

The Communion Hymn LEV #136

Post-Communion Prayer Page #366

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of

the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for

ever. Amen.

The Concluding Rite

The Blessing Page #366

Celebrant: May the risen Christ who has passed into the heavens clothe you with power from on

high. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be

among you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

The Recessional Hymn
Hymnal #559

The Dismissal Page #366

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

People: Thanks be to God.

The Postlude Flourish Rawsthorne

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Our Intercessions

for the week of June 29, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

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, Ann M., Billy K., and Jean V.

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

June 29, 2025

Serving Today: Celebrant The Rev. Canon Richard Visconti

Altar Guild: Doreen May
Ushers/Greeters: Vicki Hoshko
Ron Stefanski

Eucharistic Minister: Basil Dewdney

Acolyte: George Woodzell

Lector: Joe Palko

Intercessor: Marilyn Humphrey
Counter: Mildred Gittinger
Coffee Hour: Ruth Basantes

Altar Flowers: Today's Altar Flowers are given by Denise and Dave Crates in honor of the anniversary of the adoption of their children.

StreetSoldiers Schenectady: Today we will be making lunches for the StreetSoldiers in the kitchen during coffee hour. Come join us! We will provide gloves and some hairnets - or you can wear a hat.

Newsletter Deadline: Tomorrow, Monday, June 30th, is the deadline for submission of items, articles, reports, and/or photographs for July issue of *The Messenger*. Submissions may be dropped in the office mailbox, or emailed to office@st-stephens.church.

Weekday Bible study. All parishioners and their friends are invited to reflect upon the upcoming Sunday Lectionary Scripture readings. Led by the Rev. Canon John Perris, we will gather every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Vestry Meeting room. Recently retired to Schenectady, Canon John and his wife Cat (Catharine) are delighted to worship in our parish when Canon John is not away assisting parishes in need of a priest to preside at their Sunday services.

Ushers/Greeters: If you feel the movement of the holy spirit and can spare a Sunday a month to offer hospitality to parishioners and visitors on Sunday morning, please speak with one of the ushers/greeters.

Holy Water is now available in the baptismal font at the entrance of the church for personal use.

Sermons Online: Since some parishioners may desire to reflect on Fr. Richard's sermons after hearing his Sunday presentation, they are posted on St. Stephen's website under the Members tab and Files.

Sycamore Collaborative Summer Meals: With NY State aid, lunches are provided for children 18 and under at several sites in Schenectady, weekdays from July 1st through August 29th. St. Stephen's will serve the meals at Jerry Burrell Park this week Tuesday through Thursday, from noon to 1:30 p.m.; then again Monday, August 4th through Friday, August 8th. We will need 2-3 volunteers each day, both this week and in August. Please sign up on the sheet in the parish hall. All volunteers must complete the 8-minute online training and fill out two forms. The training link will be forwarded to you. The forms are available next to the signup sheet. Bring the completed forms when you come to serve lunch.

A Red Cross blood drive will be held in Begley 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."

Coffee Hour: Our after-service coffee hour is an integral part of our worship community. Please consider hosting a coffee hour this summer. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the nave extension.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

At Saint Stephen's

Monday, 6/30: Deadline for submission of items for the July newsletter.

Tuesday-Thursday, 7/1-7/3, ~12:00-1:30 p.m.: Serve Summer Children's Meals at Jerry Burrell Park.

Wednesday, 7/2, 10:00 a.m.: Bible study in the Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 7/6, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Wednesday, 7/9, 10:00 a.m.: Bible study in the Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 7/13, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Monday, 7/14, 7:00 p.m.: Vestry meeting.

Wednesday, 7/16, 10:00 a.m.: Bible study in the Vestry meeting room.

Wednesday, 7/16 to Wednesday, 7/30: Office Manager on vacation.

Sunday, 7/20, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Monday, 7/21, 7:00 p.m.: Worship Committee meeting.

Wednesday, 7/23, 10:00 a.m.: Bible study in the Vestry meeting room.

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

Sunday, 7/27, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Wednesday, 7/30, 10:00 a.m.: Bible study in the Vestry meeting room.

Monday-Friday, 8/4-8/8, ~12:00-1:30 p.m.: Serve Summer Children's Meals at Jerry Burrell Park.

Tuesday, 9/10, 2:00 p.m.: September Book Club meeting.

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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
Basil Dewdney
Vicki Hoshko
Deborah O'Connor

Ruth Basantes
Linda Emaelaf
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://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.