

The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 13, 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 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 10
July 13, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude

Meditation from “*Thais*”

Massenet

The Gathering Prayer

The Processional Hymn

Hymnal #390

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 #231

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Lector: A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people of Israel, "The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

"Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

The Second Lesson

Colossians 1:1-14

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

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all

the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #660

The Holy Gospel

Luke 10:25-37

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

Celebrant: Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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;
People: **That we all may be one.**

Intercessor: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People: **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Intercessor: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
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;
People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

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

Intercessor: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

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

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

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 Anthem

Amazing Grace
Chime Choir

arr. Page

The Doxology

V.3, Hymnal #380

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer A

Page #372

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of 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-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.

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.**

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 #146

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 as-
suring 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

Celebrant: God's faithfulness, kindness and mercy are unfailing and without end. May that faithful-
ness, kindness and mercy spill out from our lives to each person that we encounter this
week. May lives be changed as the gospel is lived out of our words and actions. Go now,
full of kindness and mercy for others. In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #609

The Dismissal

Page #366

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

The Postlude

Andromeda

Williams

* * * * *

Our Intercessions for the week of July 13, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of North India (United).

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.

* * * * *

Announcements

July 13, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant	The Rev. Canon Richard Visconti
	Altar Guild:	Jean Stefanski
	Ushers/Greeters:	Vicki Hoshko Ron Stefanski
	Eucharistic Minister:	George Woodzell
	Acolyte:	Allison de Kanel
	Lector:	Joe Palko
	Intercessor:	John Artieda Basantes
	Counter:	Doreen May
	Coffee Hour:	Basil Dewdney George Woodzell

* * * * *

Altar Flowers: Today's Altar Flowers are given by Douglas and Susan Lohnas in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

The Social Action Committee is meeting today following the service.

The Vestry will meet tomorrow, Monday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Weekday Bible study, Wednesday, 7/16, 10:00 a.m., in the Vestry/Conference room: Led by the Rev. Canon John Perris, we will reflect upon the upcoming Sunday Lectionary Scripture readings.

Texas Hill Country Flooding: Episcopal Relief & Development is working closely with partners to support people affected by the Texas flooding. Please contribute to the Flood Response Fund to help respond to immediate needs and support long-term recovery. You can find it at support.episcopalrelief.org/disasters/ or you may put a donation in the offering, marked for "Flood Response."

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.

Day by Day Daily Devotion guides for August through October are available on the table in the nave extension.

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

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.

Our Office Manager (Jon Ewbank) will be on vacation for two weeks beginning this Wednesday, July 16th and returning to the office on Thursday, July 31st.

Red Cross blood drive in Begley Hall is scheduled for Friday, July 25, 1- 6 p.m. Please sign up to donate blood, either at www.redcrossblood.org (enter 12309 to find St. Stephen's) or on the sign-up in the nave extension. Also, we need a volunteer or two! If you can take a shift to help at the refreshment table or elsewhere, please indicate that on the sign-up or contact Richey Woodzell by July 20.

The Deadline for submitting items for inclusion in the August issue of *The Messenger* is Monday, July 28. Please place your submissions in the office mailbox or email them to office@st-stephens.church.

Sycamore Collaborative Summer Meals: Volunteers are needed for the week at Jerry Burrell Park, Hamilton and Schenectady Streets, August 4-8 from noon to 1:30. Please sign up in the parish hall and take a copy of the forms to fill out. The link to the mandatory 7-minute training video will be emailed to you.

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.

* * * * *

UPCOMING EVENTS At Saint Stephen's

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

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.

Lunch making for the StreetSoldiers during coffee hour.

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

Sunday, 8/3, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Wednesday, 8/6, 10:00 a.m.: Bible study in the Vestry meeting room.

12:00 Noon, Holy Eucharist, The Transfiguration of Our Lord

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

* * * * *

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.