

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 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 Holy Eucharist: Rite II
The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 11
July 20, 2025

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude	<i>Pastorale</i>	Haan
The Gathering Prayer		
The Processional Hymn		Hymnal #401

The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation	Page #355
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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
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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
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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
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Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son 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

Genesis 18:1-10a

Lector: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on-- since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 15

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Second Lesson

Colossians 1:15-28

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

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now

reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him-- provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #467

The Holy Gospel

Luke 10:38-42

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

Celebrant: As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

Adagio für die Flötenuhr
Alfred Fedak & Susan Lohnas

Beethoven

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 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 by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world.

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

page 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 disci-

ples, 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

Hymnal #321

Post-Communion Prayer

Page #365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

The Blessing

Celebrant: Go now and be fruitful followers of God. Speak words of kindness and live lives of peace. Serve faithfully and fully all your days, and may God's amazing love be your guide. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #344

The Dismissal

Page 366

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Postlude

Toccata-Sortie

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Our Intercessions

for the week of July 20, 2025

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Pakistan (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, Linda, 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

July 20, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant	The Rev. Canon Richard Visconti
	Altar Guild:	Doreen May
	Ushers/Greeters:	Dave Crates Marilyn Humphrey
	Eucharistic Minister:	Basil Dewdney
	Acolyte:	George Woodzell
	Lector:	Ruth Basantes
	Intercessor:	Richey Woodzell
	Counter:	Mildred Gittinger
	Coffee Hour:	

Altar Flowers: Today's Altar Flowers are given by Basil Dewdney in honor of a belated Mother's Day, and in memory of his mother, Elizabeth Dewdney.

Today's offertory is an organ duet arrangement of *Adagio für die Flötenuhr*, composed by Ludwig van Beethoven to be played by a mechanical flute clock, an instrument with a rotating wooden barrel that triggers small organ pipes.

Mr. Fedak holds degrees in organ and music history from Hope College and Montclair State University. Well-known as an award-winning composer of church music, he has published over 300 choral and organ works and his many hymn tunes appear in hymnals throughout the English-speaking world and Asia. After a 56-year career as a church and synagogue musician, he recently retired from regular services, but remains busy as a freelance performer and composer, teacher, and accompanist/composer-in-residence with the Hudson-Mohawk Chorale.

Our Office Manager (Jon Ewbank) is on vacation. He will be returning to the office on Thursday, July 31st.

Red Cross blood drive is this Friday, July 25, 1-6 pm. 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 as soon as possible.

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.

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."

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

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.

Sunday, 8/10, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Monday, 8/11: 7:00 p.m.: Vestry meeting.

Wednesday, 8/13, 10:00 a.m.: Bible study in the Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 8/17, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Monday, 8/18: 7:00 p.m.: Worship Committee meeting.

Wednesday, 8/20, 10:00 a.m.: Bible study in the Vestry meeting room.

Sunday, 8/24, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Wednesday, 8/27, 10:00 a.m.: Bible study in the Vestry meeting room.

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

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.