

# **The Transfiguration Of Our Lord**

**August 6, 2025, 12:00 noon**



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
1935 The Plaza  
Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue  
Schenectady, New York 12309  
518-346-6241; [office@st-stephens.church](mailto:office@st-stephens.church)

Front Cover Art: “The Transfiguration,” pen and ink drawing by [Francesco Curia](#), Italian (1565–1608).  
From the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**  
**The Transfiguration of our Lord**  
**August 6, 2025, 12:00 Noon**  
**The Entrance Rite**

**The Gathering Prayer**

**The Word of God**

**The Opening Acclamation**

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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**

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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**

*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**

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, who on the holy mount revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured, in raiment white and glistening: Mercifully grant that we, being delivered from the disquietude of this world, may by faith behold the King in his beauty; who with you, O Father, and you, O Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson

Exodus 34:29-35

*Lector:* A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### The Psalm

Psalms 99

- 1 The LORD is King;  
let the people tremble; \*  
he is enthroned upon the cherubim;  
let the earth shake.
- 2 The LORD is great in Zion; \*  
he is high above all peoples.
- 3 Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome; \*  
he is the Holy One.
- 4 "O mighty King, lover of justice,  
you have established equity; \*  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."
- 5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God  
and fall down before his footstool; \*  
he is the Holy One.
- 6 Moses and Aaron among his priests,  
and Samuel among those who call upon his Name, \*  
they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.
- 7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; \*  
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.
- 8 O LORD our God, you answered them indeed; \*  
you were a God who forgave them,  
yet punished them for their evil deeds.
- 9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill; \*  
for the LORD our God is the Holy One.

### The Second Lesson

2 Peter 1:13-21

*Lector:* A reading from the Second letter of Peter.

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know

that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Holy Gospel**

Luke 9:28-36

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

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

*Celebrant:* Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” —not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **The Sermon**

Rev. Canon Richard Visconti

### **The Nicene Creed**

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*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**

*Celebrant:* Friends, God our Savior is our refuge! So let us pray to God, saying, "Incline your ear to us; Hear our words."

*Celebrant:* God our Savior, show us your face. Satisfy your Church in your presence. Reveal to us your ways so that we might walk in the light of your truth.

*Silence*

*People:* Incline your ear to us:  
**Hear our words.**

*Celebrant:* O God, your eyes are fixed on justice. We pray for all victims of war and violence and famine. Give heed to the cries of those in need throughout the world.

*Silence*

*People:* Incline your ear to us:  
**Hear our words.**

*Celebrant:* God of abundance, you have blessed the earth to bring forth plenty. May we recognize the abundance in our own lives, so that those with little may also have their fill.

*Silence*

*People:* Incline your ear to us:  
**Hear our words.**

*Celebrant:* O God, have compassion on the people of our city. Show us your marvelous, loving-kindness so that trust in your goodness might replace our fears.

*Silence*

*People:* Incline your ear to us:  
**Hear our words.**

*Celebrant:* God of blessing, we call upon you, for you answer us in our need. We pray this day for all those desperate for your blessing. Moved by compassion, heal the sick and

suffering ones we hold in our hearts this day.

*You are invited to add your own petitions and thanksgivings, followed by silence*

*People:* Incline your ear to us:  
**Hear our words.**

*Celebrant:* God our vindicator, justify the dead through the mercy of your Messiah. We pray that in the fullness of time, they may awake, beholding your likeness.

*Silence*

*People:* Incline your ear to us:  
**Hear our words.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **The Confession of Sin and Absolution**

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*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**

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*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## **The Announcements**

### **The Holy Communion**

#### **The Doxology**

V.3, Hymnal #380

#### **The Offertory Sentence:**

*Celebrant:* Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill; for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

#### **The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer D**

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*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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

*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 acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*All:* **We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

*Celebrant:* Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.



Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, St. Stephen and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

*People:* **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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*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**

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*Celebrant:* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

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

### **Lamb of God**

*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**

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*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.

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

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*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:* As you leave this sanctuary go in safety, for you cannot go where God is not; go with noble purpose, and God will honor your dedication; go in love, for it alone endures; and go in peace, for it is the gift God gives to those whose hearts and minds are in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And may His Blessing be upon you, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* **Amen.**

#### **The Dismissal**

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

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Our Intercessions for the week of August 3, 2025**

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rvisconti@st-stephens.church).