

# **The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 17, 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](mailto:office@st-stephens.church)

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**  
**The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Proper 15**  
**August 17, 2025**

**The Entrance Rite**

**The Prelude**

*How Great Thou Art*

Hobby

**The Gathering Prayer**

**The Processional Hymn**

Hymnal #366, v. 1-5

**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 #232

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son 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

Jeremiah 23:23-29

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

Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back-- those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

### The Psalm

Psalms 82

- 1 God takes his stand in the council of heaven; \*  
he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:
- 2 "How long will you judge unjustly, \*  
and show favor to the wicked?
- 3 Save the weak and the orphan; \*  
defend the humble and needy;
- 4 Rescue the weak and the poor; \*  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.
- 5 They do not know, neither do they understand;  
they go about in darkness; \*  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- 6 Now I say to you, 'You are gods, \*  
and all of you children of the Most High;
- 7 Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, \*  
and fall like any prince."
- 8 Arise, O God, and rule the earth, \*  
for you shall take all nations for your own.

### The Second Lesson

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

*Lector:* A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-- who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of

sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented-- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **The Sequence Hymn**

Hymnal #691

### **The Holy Gospel**

Luke 12:49-56

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

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

*Celebrant:* Jesus said, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

*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 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**

*Just a Little Talk with Jesus*

Derricks

Carolyn Morin, Mary Alexander, Chris Morin, Rick Morin

## **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 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**

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 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

Hymnal #304

## 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:* We are surrounded by a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down or spiritually trips us up. Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Go now, with your eyes ever on Jesus. In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*People:* **Amen.**

## The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #596

## The Dismissal

Page #366

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

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

## The Postlude

*Postlude*

Bottiglierio

\* \* \* \* \*



## **Our Intercessions for the week of August 17, 2025**

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Scottish Episcopal Church.

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

### August 17, 2025

Serving Today:	Celebrant	The Rev. Canon Richard Visconti
	Altar Guild:	Mary Alexander
	Ushers/Greeters:	Diana Belardo Salvatore Belardo
	Eucharistic Minister:	George Woodzell
	Acolyte:	Basil Dewdney
	Lector:	Richey Woodzell
	Intercessor:	Douglas Lohnas
	Counter:	Richey Woodzell
	Coffee Hour:	Susan Lohnas Doreen May

**Today's Altar Flowers** are given by Carolyn, Richard and Chris Morin in loving memory of June and William Russell.

**StreetSoldiers Lunch-making** will be on the 24<sup>th</sup>, rescheduled from the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Wednesday Mornings:** You are invited to join The Rev. Canon John Perris in the Vestry meeting room, Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in reading and reflecting on the coming Sunday's readings. Discussion group members decide where to begin and (if they wish) take turns in reading aloud the Sunday scriptures. No prior study is required, and you can take part on just those Wednesday mornings when you are able to come for this hour.

**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/](http://support.episcopalrelief.org/disasters/) or you may put a donation in the offering, marked for "Flood Response."

**School Supplies:** During August, take advantage of the sales on school supplies to collect items for the Church World Service Kids Kits which we will assemble next spring. You can find a list of the items needed in the nave extension and the August Messenger. Any other school items will be donated to a local school or the StreetSoldiers.

**Mark your calendars!** On Sunday, September 21, immediately following the service, we will have our Beginning of the Program Year Parish Picnic. This year's picnic will be even more special as it is also Mother Lisa's official first day as our new rector, so we want to be sure to make it a special welcoming event for her and her family. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church to help with set-up, cooking, and clean-up, as well as to bring a dish to share. As usual, the church will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, cheese, rolls, condiments, beverages, and paper products. If you have any questions, please see Linda Emaelaf or Carole Merrill-Mazurek.

**Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour:** Please check the sign-up sheets in the nave extension for donating Altar Flowers and hosting a coffee hour. Then prayerfully consider your willingness and ability to fill in one or more of the blank dates.

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **At Saint Stephen's**

**Wednesday, 8/20, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

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

**Sunday, 8/31, 9:30 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist.

Pastoral Care Committee meeting in the Youth Lounge following the service.

**Wednesday, 9/3, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

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

**Monday, 9/8, 7:00 p.m.:** Vestry Meeting.

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

**Wednesday, 9/10, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

**Sunday, 9/14, 9:30 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist.

Canon Richard's last Sunday with us.

**Monday, 9/15, 7:00 p.m.:** Worship Committee Meeting

**Wednesday, 9/17, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

**Sunday, 9/21, 9:30 a.m.:** Holy Eucharist.

Mtr. Lisa Busby's first Sunday with us.

Fall Parish Picnic following the service.

**Wednesday, 9/24, 10:00 a.m.:** Bible Reading and Reflection in the Vestry meeting room.

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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](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).