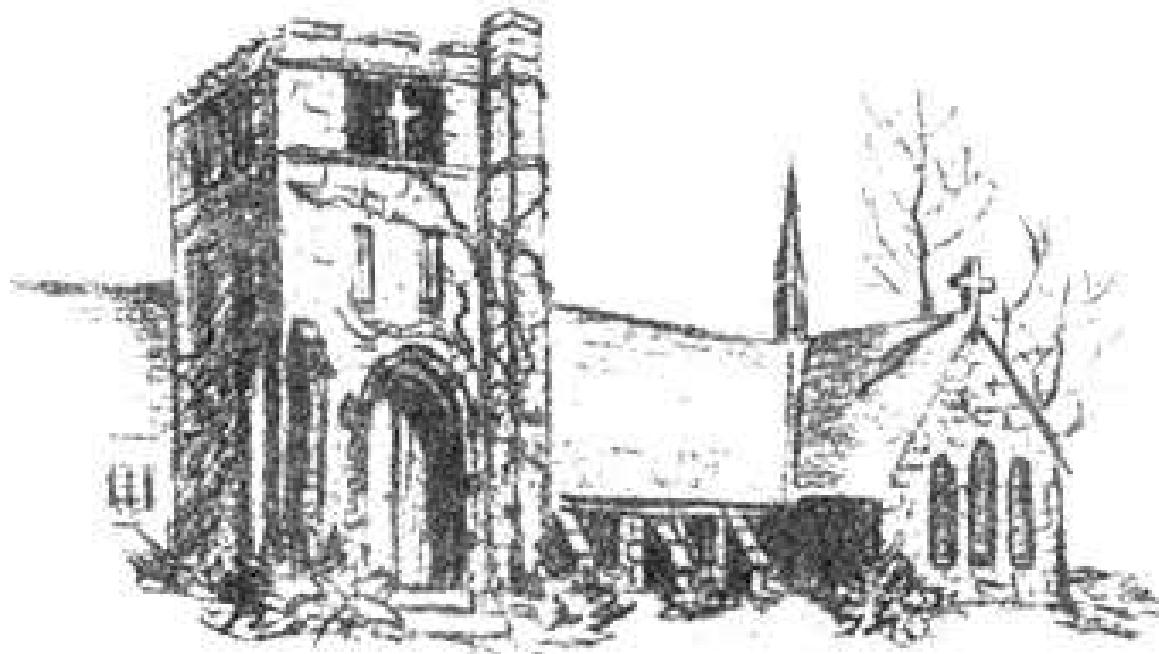


**The Last Sunday after the Epiphany  
of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
February 15, 2026**



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

If you or someone you know is in need, please call Mother Lisa at (518) 637-7736

**The Holy Eucharist: Rite II**  
**The Last Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ**  
**February 15, 2026**

**The Entrance Rite**

**The Prelude**

*Ubi Caritas*

Norah Duncan IV (b.1952)

*The 8th century Gregorian chant, Ubi Caritas, means “where there is charity and love, God is present.” Dr. Duncan, a distinguished African American composer, organist, and educator, infused elements of blues and jazz into this arrangement.*

**The Processional Hymn**

**The Word of God**

Hymnal #542

**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

**The Gloria**   Hymnal S-278      *Hymn numbers beginning with S are found in the front of the Hymnal.*

**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 #217

**The Lessons**

**The First Lesson**

Exodus 24:12-18

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

The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud,

and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

*Lector:*  
*People:*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

Psalm 2

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? \*  
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,  
and the princes plot together, \*  
against the LORD and against his Anointed?
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; \*  
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; \*  
the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, \*  
and his rage fills them with terror.
- 6 "I myself have set my king \*  
upon my holy hill of Zion."
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD: \*  
he said to me, "You are my Son;  
this day have I begotten you."
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance \*  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod \*  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
- 10 And now, you kings, be wise; \*  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- 11 Submit to the LORD with fear, \*  
and with trembling bow before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; \*  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy are they all \*  
who take refuge in him!

## The Second Lesson

2 Peter 1:16-21

*Lector:*  
A reading from the second book of Peter.

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 Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #129

### The Holy Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.  
*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**  
*Celebrant:* Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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

### The Sermon

The Rev. Lisa J. Busby

### 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.

### **Prayers of the People:**

*Celebrant:* Friends, it is the Holy One who speaks in our hearts, who says, “Seek my face.”  
With humble hearts let us come before the Lord saying “When we call, O God,  
*Hear our prayer.*”

*Intercessor:* God, help your church. Heal her divisions. Increase her joy. Unite her members  
that we might have a common purpose: to proclaim the gospel.

*Silence*

*Intercessor:* When we call, O God,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* God, help this nation and the world. Where there are heavy burdens, where  
oppression reigns, show the strength of your arm and set your people free. May  
the coming of your kingdom be ever nearer.

*Silence*

*Intercessor:* When we call, O God,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* God, help our local community. May your great light drive away all of the shadows that darken our region. Even now lift up the heads of the downcast.

*Silence*

*Intercessor:* When we call, O God,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* God, help the sick and suffering. Do not forsake them but show yourself to be the strength of their lives and their salvation. May Jesus be the healer of every disease and sickness among the people.

*You may add your petitions silently or aloud.*

*Silence.*

*Intercessor:* When we call, O God,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor:* God, help the dying and the dead. Hide them in the secrecy of your dwelling. May all those being saved say with boldness, “I belong to Christ. Forever.”

*Intercessor:* When we call, O God,  
*People:* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

### **The Confession of Sin**

Page #360

*Celebrant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People* **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.**

*The Celebrant continues with the absolution.*

**The Peace** *During the exchange of the peace, you are welcome to greet those around you.*

### **The Announcements**

### **The Holy Communion**

#### **The Offertory Anthem**

*Abide with Me*

*David Crowder, Matt Redman, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher, arr. Heather Sorenson*

#### **The Doxology**

Hymnal #380, v.3

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

Page #367

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



*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

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

### The Concluding Rite

**The Blessing**

Page #366

**The Recessional Hymn**

Hymnal #123

**The Dismissal**

Page #366

**The Postlude***Prelude and Fugue* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

*This is one of the "Eight Little Preludes and Fugues" attributed to JS Bach. In the 20th century, musical scholars agreed it is more likely that these pieces are the work of Johann Krebs, one of Bach's pupils.*

*Nevertheless, they are considered essentials of the organ repertoire.*

The postlude sends us out into the world. You are welcome to exit quietly or stay for the entire piece. We hope you will join us for coffee hour and fellowship in the parish hall immediately following today's service.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Serving Today:

Altar Guild:	Doreen May
Usher:	Doreen May
Eucharistic Minister:	Basil Dewdney
Acolyte:	George Woodzell
Lector:	Richey Woodzell
Intercessor:	Dave Crates
Counter:	Diana Belardo
Coffee Hour:	Christine & J. Keith Nelson

**Today's Altar Flowers** are given by Don and Joan Csaposs to the glory of God, in honor of Robert & Harriet Corbett, and John and Alma Csaposs.

\* \* \* \* \*