

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

1935 The Plaza

Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue

Schenectady, NY 12309

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A Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany

The Rt. Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop

The Rev. Lisa Busby, Rector

Susan Lohnas, Organist

Douglas Lohnas, Choir Director

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

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

The Entrance Rite

The Prelude

“Meditation” from *Thaïs*

Jules Massenet (1842-1912)

Famed French composer Jules Massenet wrote this intermezzo for his opera *Thaïs*. As a teenager, I practiced this piece while my mother made dinner, and it became her favorite. I play it today in her memory.

The Processional Hymn

Hymnal #191

The Word of God

The Opening Acclamation

Page #355

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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 #225

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Acts 17:22-31

Lector: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 66:7-18

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
 make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life, *
 and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
 you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; *
 you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
 we went through fire and water; *
 but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings
 and will pay you my vows, *
 which I promised with my lips
 and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
 with the smoke of rams; *
 I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
 and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
 and his praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart, *
 the Lord would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me; *
 he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
 nor withheld his love from me.

The Second Lesson

1 Peter 3:13-22

Lector: A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #455

The Holy Gospel

John 14:15-21

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

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

Celebrant: Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Cn. John Perris

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.**

Prayers of the People Form III

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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.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace Page #360 *During the exchange of the peace, you are welcome to greet those around you.*

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Alleluia

John Coates (1938-2017)

The Doxology

Hymnal #380, v.3

Sursum Corda Hymnal S-120. *Hymn numbers beginning with S are found in the front of the Hymnal.*

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

Page #367

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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us 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:

Sanctus Hymnal S-124 *Hymn numbers beginning with S are found in the front of the Hymnal.*

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.

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer. The congregation joins in at the following prompt:

Celebrant: Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All: **We remember his death,**

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues with the remainder of the Eucharistic Prayer. At the conclusion, all say:

All: 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.**

Agnus Dei Hymnal S-161 *Hymn numbers beginning with S are found in the front of the Hymnal.*

**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 to Communion

Page #364

The Communion Hymn

LEV #87

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 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 Announcements - Led by a Warden during Mtr. Lisa's absence

The Blessing

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The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #292

The Dismissal

Page #366

The Postlude

Fugue

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Musicologists question whether Handel composed this fugue, first published some fifteen years after his death. The style is definitely Handel's. The lightness of the piece is in keeping with the instruments of his time.

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.

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Serving Today:

Celebrant: The Rev. Cn. John Perris
Altar Guild: Doreen May
Ushers: Dave Crates
Vicki Hoshko
Eucharistic Minister: George Woodzell
Acolyte: Basil Dewdney
Lector: Don Csaposs
Intercessor: Richey Woodzell
Counter: Judy Versocki
Coffee Hour: Richey and George Woodzell

Today's Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Gwen Robbins
by David and Suzanne Taylor.

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