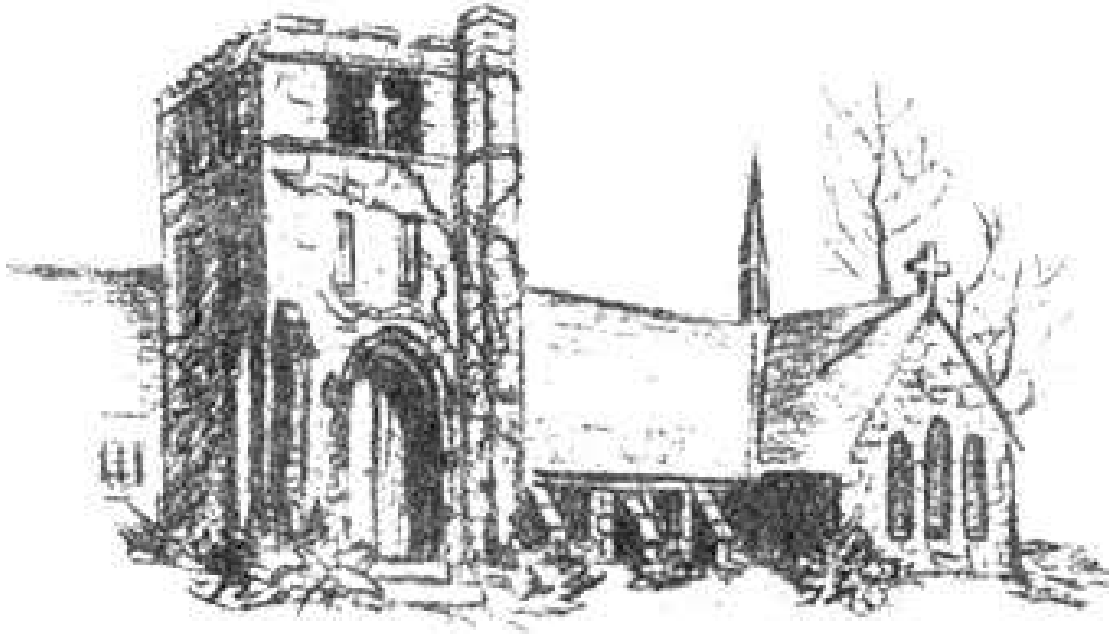


# The Fifth Sunday of Easter

## May 3, 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)

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) 637-7736

# The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

## The Entrance Rite

**The Prelude** *Largo* Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)/Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)  
American organist and composer Edward Shippen Barnes transcribed for organ this movement of JS Bach's *Violin Sonata No. 5*. As an organist, Mr. Barnes served several churches, including St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia from 1924 until 1938.

**The Processional Hymn**

Hymnal #180

## 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 7:55-60

*Lector:* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

## The Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.

## The Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:2-10

*Lector:*

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner”,

and

“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

*Lector:* The Word of the Lord.

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

**The Sequence Hymn**

Hymnal #243

**The Holy Gospel**

John 14:1-14

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

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

*Celebrant:* Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Barb Schmitz

**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 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.

*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 Sentence**

**The Offertory Anthem**

*Hymn of Promise*

Natalie Sleeth

**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:* 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.**

*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

Hymnal #313

## 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

Page #366

## The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #525

## The Dismissal

Page #366

## The Postlude

*Toccata-Sortie*

Auguste Larriu (1840-1925)

Auguste Larriu, a lawyer by profession, composed music for organ and served as organist of the Church of St. Croix, Oloron, France, for many years. This lively postlude is from *Organist's Flowers*, a collection of twenty of his works, published in 1886.

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:

Celebrant: The Rev. Barb Schmitz  
Altar Guild: Jean Stefanski  
Ushers: Marilyn Humphrey  
Ron Stefanski  
Eucharistic Minister: Basil Dewdney  
Acolyte: George Woodzell  
Lector: Ruth Basantes  
Intercessor: John Artieda  
Counter: Deborah O'Connor  
Coffee Hour: Stan and Claudia Jakubowski,  
Janet Carta, Doug Smith

**Today's Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God by Dave and Denise Crates.

\* \* \* \* \*