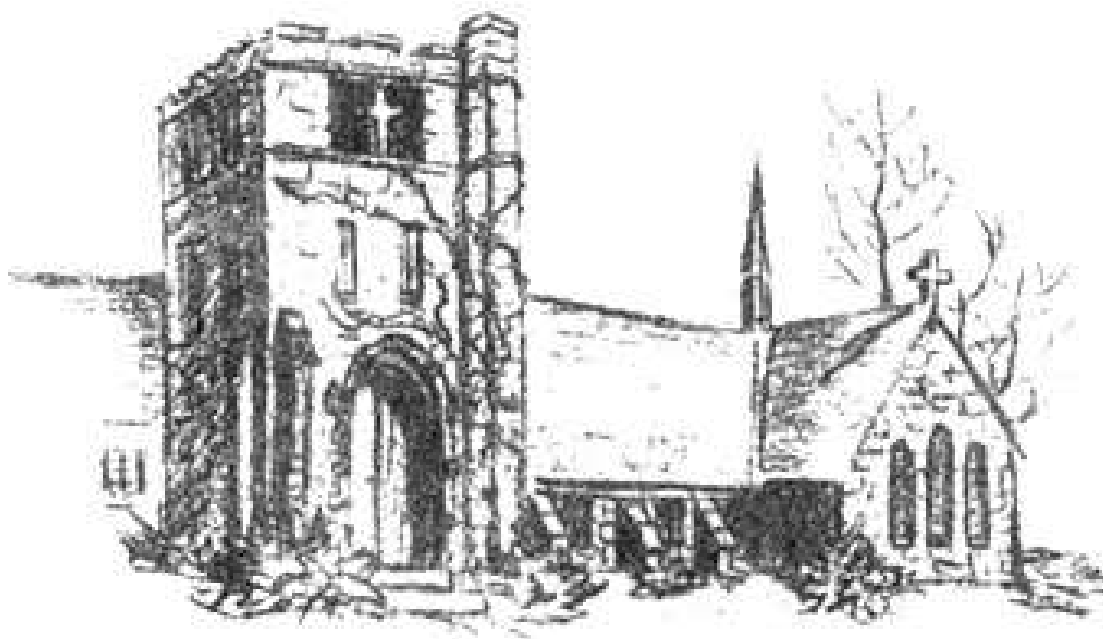


The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 7
June 21, 2026



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

1935 The Plaza

Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue

Schenectady, NY 12309

518-346-6241; 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 *Deep River* spiritual

This spiritual expresses longing for a refuge from hardship and sorrow. Its popularity spread by the Fisk Jubilee Singers in the 1870's and later by African American composer and singer Henry Burleigh (1866-1949). This powerful song has been featured in several films and recordings.

The Processional Hymn Hymnal #372

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

The Gloria Hymnal S-280 *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 - Proper 7 Page #230

The Lessons

The First Lesson Genesis 21:8-21

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a

bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

- 1 Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, *
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; *
save your servant who puts his trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; *
I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, *
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, *
and great is your love toward all who call upon
you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, *
and attend to the voice of my supplications.
- 7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, *
for you will answer me.
- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, *
nor anything like your works.
- 9 All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord, *
and glorify your Name.
- 10 For you are great;
you do wondrous things; *
and you alone are God.
- 16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

The Second Lesson

Romans 6:1b-11

Lector:

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Lector:

The Word of the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #296

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:24-39

Celebrant:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

People:

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Lisa 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 - Proper 7

Celebrant: Children of God, praise the Lord! Our God is faithful and hears our prayers, so let us pray, "In your great mercy, O God, answer us with your unfailing help.

Silence

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,
People: **Answer us with your unfailing help.**

Intercessor: To the nations of earth, O God of hosts, grant freedom and peace. Deliver the lives of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Silence

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,
People: **Answer us with your unfailing help.**

Intercessor: To your created order, O God, grant your help. May the waters, oil, and air be made clean and healthy again.

The congregation may add their thanksgivings silently or aloud

Silence

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,
People: **Answer us with your unfailing help.**

Intercessor: To this city, O God, grant your deliverance. Set us free from violence and destruction. Make safe our streets.

Silence

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,
People: **Answer us with your unfailing help.**

Intercessor: To those who feel the deep about to swallow them, O God, grant your salvation. In your great compassion, turn to all those in need.

The congregation may add their petitions and thanksgivings silently or aloud.

Silence

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,
People: **Answer us with your unfailing help.**

Intercessor: To the dead, O God, grant life eternal with Christ. May all those who have been baptized into the death of Christ be united with him in his resurrection.

Silence

Intercessor: In your great mercy, O God,
People: **Answer us with your unfailing help.**

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 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling* Will Thompson (1847–1909)

The Doxology Hymnal #380, v.3

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.

(Here a Proper Preface is said.)

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 #152

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

The Blessing

Page #366

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #675

The Dismissal

Page #366

The Postlude

Fantasia

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

German composer and organist Johann Pachelbel wrote much of his music, including Fantasia, for manuals alone to be played on harpsichord or small organs with limited or no pedal. I can't resist playing one pedal note at the end!

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. Lisa Busby
Altar Guild:	Jean Stefanski
Ushers:	Doreen May Ron Stefanski
Eucharistic Minister:	George Woodzell
Acolyte:	Basil Dewdney
Lector:	John Artieda
Intercessor:	Ruth Basantes
Counter:	Doreen May
Coffee Hour:	Ruth Basantes Richey Woodzell