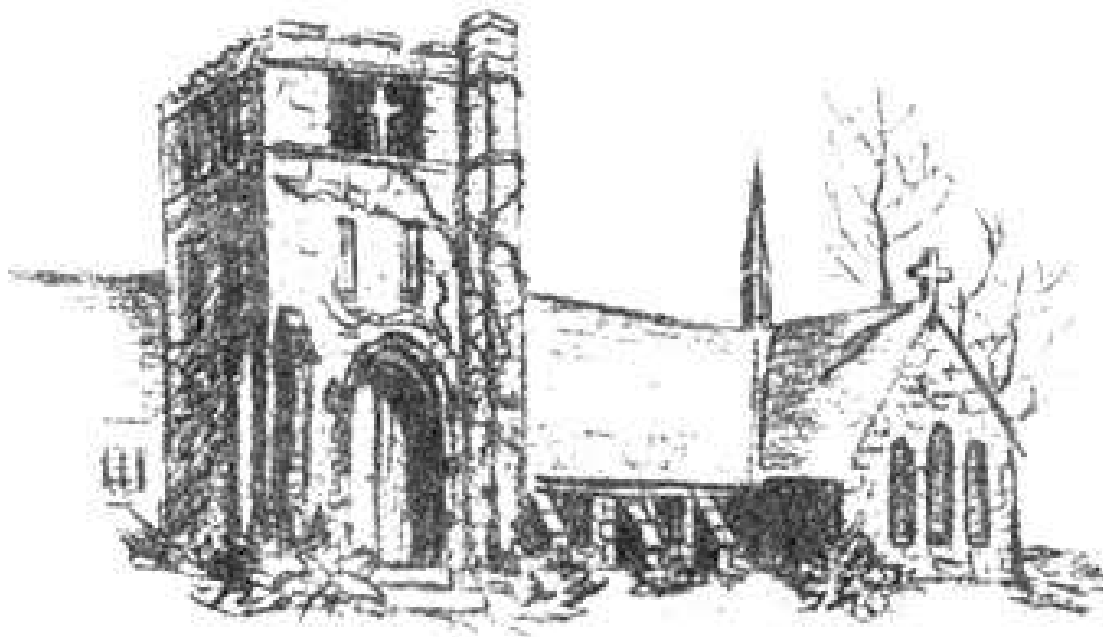


The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 8
June 28, 2026



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 *Liturgical Improvisation No. 1* George Oldroyd (1886-1951)
English organist and composer George Oldroyd expresses yearning, and eventually peace, in his reflection on Psalm 84:2, "My soul hath a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord."

The Processional Hymn Hymnal #525

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 8 Page #230

The Lessons

The First Lesson Genesis 22:1-14

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 13

- 1 How long, O Lord?
 will you forget me for ever? *
 how long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
 and grief in my heart, day after day? *
 how long shall my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look upon me and answer me, O Lord my God; *
 give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
- 4 Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," *
 and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
- 5 But I put my trust in your mercy; *
 my heart is joyful because of your saving help.
- 6 I will sing to the Lord, for he has dealt with me richly; *
 I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

The Second Lesson

Romans 6:12-23

Lector: A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free

from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #641

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 10:40-42

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

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

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

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 8

Celebrant: Beloved in Christ, present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life. And with humble hearts, pray to the Lord, saying, "Look upon us; answer us, O Lord our God."

Intercessor: Lord God, you have freed your Church from sin: sanctify us that we may be wholly dedicated to you and your purposes.

Silence

Intercessor: Look upon us;

People: **Answer us, O Lord our God.**

Intercessor: Incarnate God, help us to welcome Christ by welcoming the other. Give us eyes to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Silence

Intercessor: Look upon us;

People: **Answer us, O Lord our God.**

Intercessor: Righteous God, just as you provided a ram for Abraham, you have given us all we need. Encourage us to share what we have so that all may have their needs met. *(You are invited to add your thanksgivings silently or aloud.)*

Silence

Intercessor: Look upon us;

People: **Answer us, O Lord our God.**

Intercessor: O Lord, we put our trust in your mercy. We pray you make joyful the hearts of our neighbors-especially the displaced and sorrowful.

Silence

Intercessor: Look upon us;

People: **Answer us, O Lord our God.**

Intercessor: O Lord, answer those who cry out in their pain. Comfort those who feel forgotten. Give peace to those who are perplexed and grieving.
(*You are invited to add your petitions silently or aloud.*)

Silence

Intercessor: Look upon us;

People: **Answer us, O Lord our God.**

Intercessor: Gracious God, your free gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord: Bless and keep the dying and the dead.

Silence

Intercessor: Look upon us;

People: **Answer us, O Lord our God.**

(*The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.*)

Confession of Sin

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

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

The Offertory Anthem

Love Grows Here

Don Besig (b. 1936)

Douglas Lohnas, soloist

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.

(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 it is in heaven. Give us this day 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 #146

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 #609

The Dismissal

Page #366

The Postlude

Exultemus

Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

British organist, composer, and educator Noel Rawsthorne wrote this joyful piece for his organ students.

He served as organist of Liverpool Cathedral for 25 years.

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:	Carolyn Morin
Ushers:	Robert Brockway Vicki Hoshko
Eucharistic Minister:	Basil Dewdney
Acolyte:	George Woodzell
Lector:	Linda Emaelaf
Intercessor:	Carole Merrill-Mazurek
Counter:	Debbie O'Connor Diana Belardo
Coffee Hour:	Diana and Salvatore Belardo