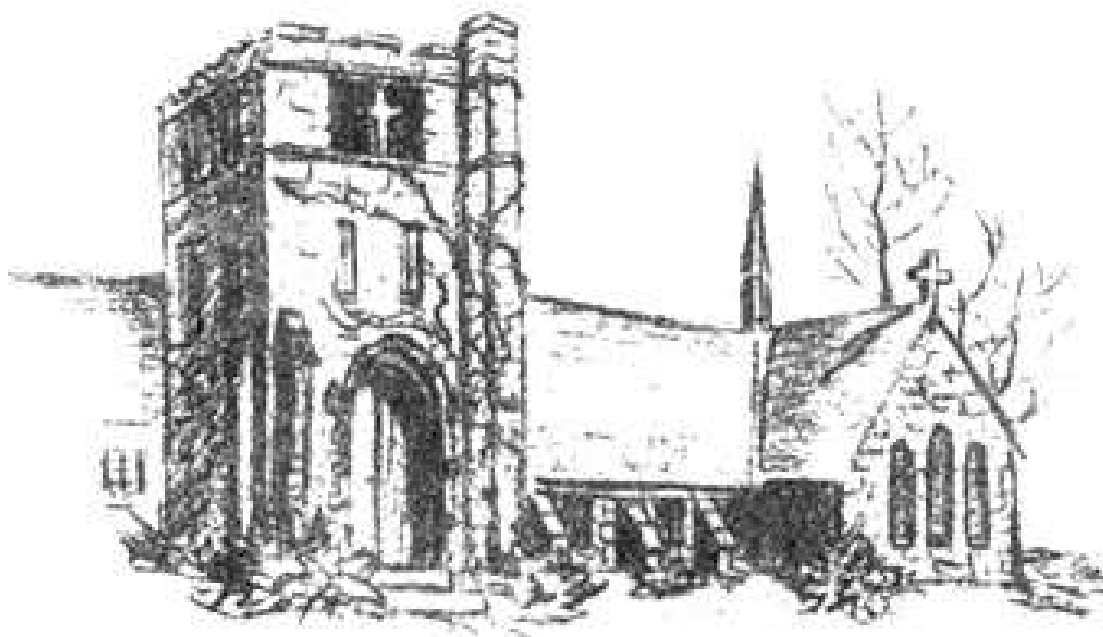


The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 10

July 12, 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
The Processional Hymn

Amazing Grace

arr. George Shearing
Hymnal #440

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 10

Page #231

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Genesis 25:19-34

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 119:105-112

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.
106 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.
107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.
108 Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.
109 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.
110 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.
111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.
112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:1-11

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

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this

reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #671

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

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

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

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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 10

Celebrant: Let us pray for the Church and for the World saying, 'Hear our prayer.'

Intercessor: We give you thanks, O Lord, for your presence in this your Church. Bless its members here in this congregation and throughout the world. Guide us in carrying out the mission you have entrusted to us.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Jeremiah our bishop, for our parish clergy, for all bishops, priests, and deacons, and for all the baptized who minister in your Name. For all your holy people.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We bless your name, O Lord, for the freedoms which we enjoy in this, our nation. Make us worthy of the abundance you have granted us. Help us to remember the

lessons in sharing with those less fortunate than we are that you taught. Let us remember our duty to help bring in your kingdom on earth.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We thank you, O God, for our friends around the world. Help us to learn to love all our neighbors. Shield your people from persecution.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We bless you, O Lord, for this our community of Schenectady. Make us willing to live peacefully with all those who are part of this city. Let us walk together in your name.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We ask your healing and comfort, O Lord, for all our fellow human beings who suffer in any way. Bring your healing power upon them. Strengthen their trust in your love for those whom you have created.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: We remember, O Lord, with thanksgiving all those who have died, in the company of Blessed Stephen and all the saints. We ask you to comfort those mourning the loss of a loved one. Help us to wait patiently for a joyful reunion with them.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor: Let us pray for own needs and those of others, silently or aloud.

Silence. (The People may add their own petitions.)

Celebrant: Abide with us, O Lord. We need your loving presence. Abide with us and give us a lasting sense of peace.

All: **Amen.**

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

God Is Truly with Us

arr. Roberta Bitgood

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 Hymnal #343

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 #302

The Dismissal Page #366

The Postlude *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arr. Diane Bish

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:	Mary Alexander
Ushers:	Robert Brockway Ron Stefanski
Eucharistic Minister:	George Woodzell
Acolyte:	Allison de Kanel
Lector:	Joe Palko
Intercessor:	Don Csaposs
Counter:	Jean Stefanski Robert Brockway
Coffee Hour:	Vacant