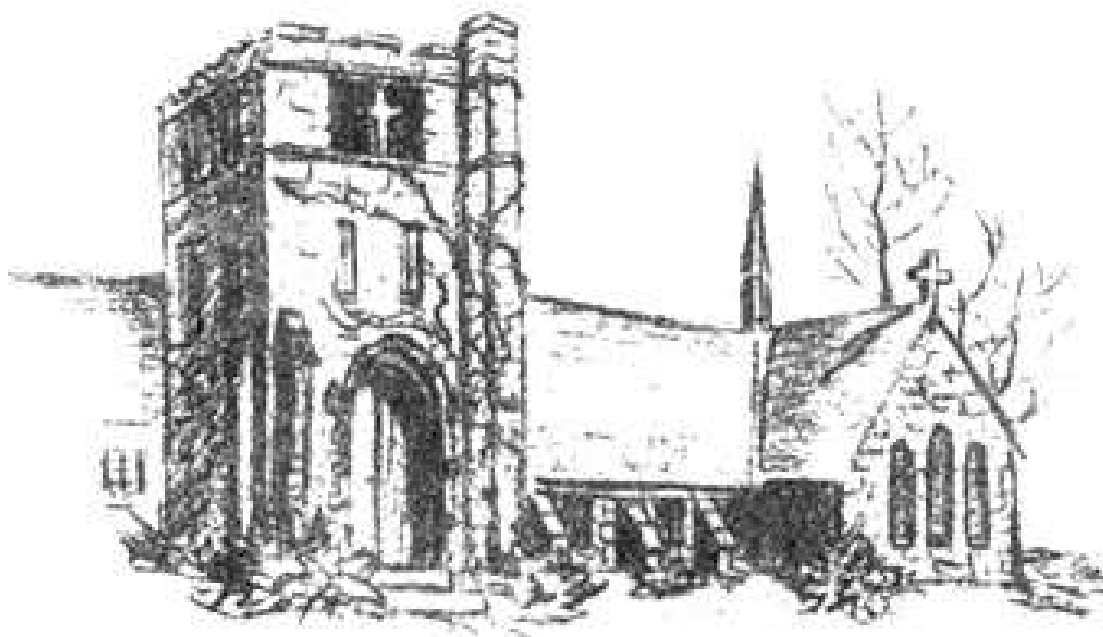


The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 11

July 19, 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 *Christ be with me!* Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) / arr. Carl Deis (1883-1960)
Eugene Tobey, baritone

*This arrangement sets the words of the ancient hymn “St. Patrick’s Breastplate” to the well-known Prelude in C minor of Frédéric Chopin. The message is powerful: Christ is our spiritual shield.
This text is found in The 1982 Hymnal, hymn #370, verse 6.*

The Processional Hymn

Hymnal #376

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 11

Page #231

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Genesis 28:10-19a

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.
- 23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:12-25

Lector:

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Lector:

The Word of the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #542

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

Celebrant:

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

People:

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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 11

Celebrant: We lift our prayers to God, who knows our necessities before we ask and rejoices in our asking, as we respond, "Hear us, good Lord."

Intercessor: That judges, attorneys and juries may be fair and just in their dealings with those who come before them, relying on the law and legal precedence, and weighing their decisions with compassion and forbearance; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor: That the Church may welcome young adults into its life, listening to their ideas, and joining with them in building for the future; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor: That God's will may break through the hardened surfaces of those who release their despair through violence, abuse, gang membership, vengeful societies, and terrorist organizations, so they may be changed into the architects of a peaceful and prosperous world; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor: That the hope of the poor be not in vain, and those with a troubled spirit be not forgotten, but assisted through the generosity of those whose hearts are fertile soil in which the ministry of Christ bears much fruit; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor: That the leaders of the nations may usher in the peace of God's reign; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor: That all who have returned to the dust may be raised to the glory of everlasting life; let us pray.

People: **Hear us, good Lord.**

Intercessor: In the light that knows no setting of the sun, let us continue our prayers.

Thanksgivings and petitions may be offered aloud or silently

Silence

The Celebrant offers 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

Panis Angelicus
Eugene Tobey, baritone

César Franck (1822-1890)

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 #151

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 #453

The Dismissal

Page #366

The Postlude

Marche Pontificale

Jacques Lemmens (1823-1881)

Belgian organist, composer, and teacher Jacques Lemmens wrote this stirring march as the third movement of his Sonata No. 1. He revolutionized 19th-century organ playing by introducing the rigorous German tradition of Johann Sebastian Bach to France and Belgium.

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:	Marilyn Humphrey Doreen May
Eucharistic Minister:	Allison de Kanel
Acolyte:	Basil Dewdney
Lector:	Marilyn Humphrey
Intercessor:	Don Csaposs
Counter:	Doreen May Richey Woodzell
Coffee Hour:	Sara and Joe Palko

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INTERCESSIONS For the week of July 19

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

Our Church Leaders: Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury: Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop; Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop of Albany; and Lisa Busby, Rector.

Our Leaders: Donald Trump, President of the United States; Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York; and Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady.

Those who are ill, recovering from surgery, or in need of strength and healing: Marilyn C., Dawn K., Tom & Kathy M., Helen P., Don R., Austin S., Jean V., Bob V., and Kiera L.

For all public employees that they may continue their work for justice, peace, and the common good, for those who have lost their jobs, and for all those who live in fear.

For those in the Military: Zachary and Eric A.

* * * * *

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we welcome our guest soloist Eugene Tobey.

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Richey and George Woodzell in memory of Lillian Peterson, Claudia Ashelman and Kabby Lowe, "three strong and delightful women," and in loving remembrance of Marilee Wilson, former choir member, who died July 11."

Venezuela earthquakes response: On June 24, two strong earthquakes struck north-central Venezuela in rapid succession. As the scope of the disaster continues to unfold, Episcopal Relief & Development works with local partners to provide critical relief and assess their community needs. Please consider donating to their International Disaster Fund by check or online at episcopalrelief.org.

Things of My Very Own, a local nonprofit that provides services to children in crisis, is seeking financial donations to stock their food pantry for the families they serve. Please consider donating in the labeled canister in the nave extension or online at thingsofmyveryown.org.

The 158th Diocesan Convention: The Bishop of Albany has called for the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Albany to take place at Christ the King Center in Greenwich, NY from September 10-12. Among the business to be considered this year is a revision to the Diocesan Canons and Constitution.

Signup Sheets - The signup sheets for donating Altar Flowers and hosting coffee hour are available on the table in the nave extension.

Intercessory Prayer List: Please notify Jon in the office **via email** of the names of those you wish to have remembered in the prayer. Please include your full name, the full name(s) of the person(s) you wish added. The list will be reset every three months. Thank you.

* * * * *

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday - Friday, 7/19 - 7/24 - Mtr. Lisa at Beaver Cross Camp as Chaplain.

Saturday, 7/25, 9:30 a.m.: Fabricators and Yarners.

Sunday, 7/26, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Friday, 7/31, 2:30-4:00 p.m.: Repair Cafe set up in Begley Hall.

Saturday, 8/1, 10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m.: Repair Cafe in Begley Hall.

Sunday, 8/2, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Saturday, 8/8, 9:30 a.m.: Fabricators and Yarners.

Sunday, 8/9, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.