

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 15

August 16, 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

There is no shadow...

Brenda Portman (b. 1980)

tune FAITHFULNESS by William Runyan (1870-1957)

Brenda Portman composed this touching piece in memory of a friend who died of COVID. Listen carefully to hear elements of the hymn *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, upon which it is based.

The Word of God

The Processional Hymn

Hymnal #410

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 15

Page #232

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Genesis 45:1-15

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

The Psalm

Psalm 133

- 1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!
- 2 It is like fine oil upon the head *
that runs down upon the beard,
- 3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

The Second Lesson

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

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

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #533

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Cn. John Perris

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 15

Celebrant: Beloved in Christ, there's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea!
 Therefore, let us come before our loving God, saying, "Hear us, we humble pray; Lord,
 help us."
Intercessor: Loving God, you have shown your Church such great mercy. Through the witness of your
 Church, may those beyond our walls also experience the goodness of your mercy.
Silence
Intercessor: Hear us, we humbly pray:
People: **Lord, help us.**
Intercessor: Abundant God, you make the earth bring forth good food. As you provided for the
 children of Israel, we pray you will also provide for all those suffering from famine or
 need.
Silence
Intercessor: Hear us, we humbly pray:
People: **Lord, help us.**
Intercessor: Caring God, how good and pleasant it is when your children live together in unity. Pour
 out a spirit of reconciliation in our community. (You are invited to add your
 thanksgivings, silently or aloud.)
Silence
Intercessor: Hear us, we humbly pray:
People: **Lord, help us.**
Intercessor: Lord Christ, may those who call out to you in great faith find your heart open to their
 cries. We ask for healing for the sick and suffering, the desperate and disturbed. (You are
 invited to add your petitions, silently or aloud.)
Silence

Intercessor: Hear us, we humbly pray:

People: **Lord, help us.**

Intercessor: God of blessing, bless your people with life forevermore. May the dying find comfort; may the dead rest in your peace.

Silence

Intercessor: Hear us, we humbly pray:

People: **Lord, help us.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

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 *In the Sweet By and By* Sanford Bennett (1836-1898) / Joseph Webster (1819-1875)
Carolyn Morin, Susan Lohnas, Mary Alexander, Douglas Lohnas

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 #321

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

LEV #189

The Dismissal

Page #366

The Postlude *Toccata in A minor* Jan Sweelinck (1562-1621) / edited E. Power Biggs (1906-1977)

Sweelinck's teaching, as well as his compositions, strongly influenced Baroque masters such as Buxtehude and Bach in what became known as the North German organ tradition. This complex, improvisatory music inspired organ builders to build instruments with more expression and colorful sounds.

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.

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Serving Today:

Celebrant:	The Rev. Cn. John Perris
Altar Guild:	Jean Stefanski
Ushers:	Vicki Hoshko Doreen May
Eucharistic Minister:	Basil Dewdney
Acolyte:	George Woodzell
Lector:	Linda Emaelaf
Intercessor:	Doreen May
Counter:	Doreen May
Coffee Hour:	Suzanne and Dave Taylor

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INTERCESSIONS For the week of August 16, 2026

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church in Wales.

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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Altar Flowers are given by Jason and Diana Murphy in loving memory of Jason's mother, Jean Murphy.

Mark your calendars - On Sunday, September 13, we will hold our Beginning of the Program Year Parish Picnic in the Parish Hall immediately following the service. The church will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, rolls, cheese for cheeseburgers, chips, condiments, paper products/utensils, and drinks. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for folks to help out with set-up, cooking, and clean-up. There is also a sign-up to bring a dish to share. If you have any questions, please see Linda Emaelaf.

Calendars for the Pantry: If you have extra 2027 calendars, please leave them in the box in the nave extension for the guests at the food pantry.

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.

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.

The Messenger: Printed copies of the latest issue of the newsletter are on the table in the nave extension. The deadline for submissions for the September issue is Monday, August 24.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 8/22, 9:30 a.m.: Fabricators and Yarners.

Sunday, 8/23, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Monday, 8/24, 2:00 p.m.: Pastoral Care Committee Meeting - Youth Lounge
3:00 p.m.: Worship Committee meeting.

Saturday, 8/29, 9:30 a.m.: Fabricators and Yarners.

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

Sunday, 9/6, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

Saturday, 9/12, 9:30 a.m.: Fabricators and Yarners.

Sunday, 9/13, 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist.

- Following the service: Beginning of the program year Parish Picnic.

Monday, 9/14, 7:00 p.m.: Vestry meeting.

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