

**The
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 19
September 13, 2026**



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

1935 The Plaza

Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue

Schenectady, NY 12309

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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

Serenade

Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

British organist, composer, and teacher Noel Rawsthorne served as organist of Liverpool Cathedral for 25 years.

His *Serenade* is a lyrical piece that conveys peace and hopefulness.

The Word of God

The Processional Hymn

Hymnal #400 vs. 1, 4, 5, 7

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 19

Page #233

The Lessons

The First Lesson

Exodus 14:19-31

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Lector:

The Word of the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Psalm 114

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

3 The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

4 The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

The Second Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Lector:

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector:

The Word of the Lord.

People:

Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #393

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Celebrant:
People:

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Celebrant:
People:

The Gospel of the Lord.
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 19

Celebrant: Each of us is finally accountable to God. So let us pray saying, "Lord, we are in need of your mercy; have patience with us."

Intercessor: We acknowledge that we all sin against our siblings in Christ. Forgive us even as we forgive each other. Help us to be merciful to each other in the Church.

Silence:

Intercessor: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

Intercessor: We acknowledge that we desire to repay violence with violence. Open our hearts to forgive even those who commit evil acts towards us and those we love. Help us to live mercifully in our world.

Silence:

Intercessor: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

Intercessor: We acknowledge we do not always appreciate the diversity of your creation. Teach us to live in peace with each other and with your creation. Help us to live mercifully with our world.

Silence:

Intercessor: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

Intercessor: We acknowledge that we do not love our neighbors as you love us. Forgive us for placing ourselves as judge over others when judgment belongs to you alone. Help us to accept the great mercy you choose to show others.

Silence:

Intercessor: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

Intercessor: We pray for those whose lives are broken by evil. Because of your mercy we believe that whatever befalls them, they belong to you; you care for the brokenhearted. Help us to share your love with all those who are hurting. (You are invited to add your petitions and thanksgivings, silently or aloud).

Silence:

Intercessor: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with us.**

Intercessor: We remember those who died in violence. We remember those men and women of the armed services, innocent bystanders, first responders, and even those we have called enemies. The dead belong to you, O Lord. Even as we seek your mercy for ourselves, judge all those who have died with mercy.

Silence:

Intercessor: Lord, we are in need of your mercy;

People: **Have patience with 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 *A Classic Communion* George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) /
arr. Jay Althouse (b. 1951)

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 #674

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

Blessing of Students, Educators, and Staff

Eternal God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our great teacher and savior, bless these your servants as they begin the school year. Your Son was once himself a child learning and teaching in the temple. Grant that all who enter into places of learning as students and educators this year be filled with your grace and heavenly wisdom—that all their efforts be directed by your Holy Spirit, and work to your praise and glory. **Amen.**

Prayer for Instruments of Teaching and Learning

Almighty God, we bring before you these instruments of teaching and of learning. We pray that your Holy Spirit of wisdom go forth with all who carry them this year: that all bearers of briefcases and of backpacks will rest secure in the knowledge of your abiding strength, peace and love. May they, like the young Jesus, grow in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and with society. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Page #366

The Recessional Hymn

Hymnal #607

The Dismissal

Page #366

The Postlude

Toccata

Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)

A toccata, from the Italian for "touch", has rapid patterns of notes that add energy to a relatively simple melody.

Douglas Wagner completed a 30-year career as a high school music educator and continues to work as a composer, editor, and church musician.

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:	Rev. Lisa Busby
Altar Guild:	Jean Stefanski Ann Popp
Ushers:	Marilyn Humphrey Ron Stefanski
Eucharistic Minister:	Basil Dewdney
Acolyte:	George Woodzell
Lector:	Joe Palko
Intercessor:	Stan Jakubowski
Livestream Technician:	Loyal Williams
Counter:	Diana Belardo
Coffee Hour:	Parish Picnic

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St. Stephen's has been accepted into Luke 10 Congregations: Equipping Churches to Do Justice, a national cohort-based training program for Christian churches! Richey Woodzell, Chris Fink, Ruth Basantes, Kathy Condon, and Mother Lisa will represent our congregation in this 9-month program, which will begin with a retreat in Baltimore Sept. 11-13. The Luke 10 program equips congregations to engage in ministries to address poverty, racism, and Christian Nationalism and live out the gospel call for justice and abundant life for all people. Please keep Richey, Chris, Ruth, Kathy, and Mother Lisa in your prayers as they begin this process and help to lead our church into deeper understanding and engagement. They will also be seeking input and involvement from the whole congregation, so stay tuned for ways to learn more and get involved!