The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 27
November 8, 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

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 *Entreaty* Raymond Haan (b. 1938)

This intense, pleading piece is a reflection on Psalm 55:1
Give ear to my prayer, O God; hide not thyself from my supplication.

The Word of God

The Processional Hymn Hymnal #690

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 27 Page #236

The Lessons

The First Lesson Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Lector: A reading from the book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having

done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

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

The Psalm Psalm 78:1-7

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

The Second Lesson 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

The Sequence Hymn Hymnal #620

The Holy Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of

oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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 27

Celebrant: Alleluia! Let us join the countless throngs who sing God's praises, praying, "We bless you, O, Lord; your praise is ever in our mouth."

Intercessor: God of the pilgrim Church, you love us and call us your children: give your Church a hunger and a thirst for righteousness. Continue to nurture us by the example and fellowship of those saints who have journeyed before us.

Silence

Intercessor: We bless you, O Lord;
People: **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Intercessor: God of all people, you love us and call us your children: In a world of violence and war, you bless the peacemakers. Make us instruments of healing and peace.

Silence

Intercessor: We bless you, O Lord;
People: **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Intercessor: God of peace, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all of the men and women who serve or have served in our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, strengthen them in trials and tribulations; give them courage to face perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be.

Silence

Intercessor: We bless you, O Lord;
People: **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Intercessor: God of creation, you love us and call us your children: you have given this earth to the meek. May our steps be gentle and leave a small footprint on our earth. As it has been handed on to us, may we carefully preserve this creation for future generations.

Silence

Intercessor: We bless you, O Lord;
People: **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Intercessor: God of the city, you love us and call us your children: bless the poor with good things. Visit our impoverished neighborhoods with hope, mercy, and relief. Give us hearts for the poor in our region.

Silence

Intercessor: We bless you, O Lord;
People: **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Intercessor: God of the mournful and suffering, you love us and call us your children: comfort and heal those in need. Hear them in their affliction and save them from their troubles. (You are invited to add your petitions, silently or aloud.)

Silence

Intercessor: We bless you, O Lord;
People: **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

Intercessor: God of the Church at rest, you love us and call us your children: we praise you for the faith and witness of all the saints. May their prayers and presence continue to strengthen us. It is with their triumphant voices that we join our own prayers and praises. Alleluia! (You are invited to add your thanksgivings, silently or aloud.)

Silence

Intercessor: We bless you, O Lord;
People: **Your praise is ever in our mouths.**

(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 *Give Me Oil in My Lamp* A. Sevison, J. Paul Williams (1937-2010), arr. Joseph Martin (b. 1959)

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 #325

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 #68

The Dismissal Page #366

The Postlude *Festal Finale* Henry Coleman (1888-1965)

English organist and composer Henry Coleman performed on several BBC broadcasts in the 1930's. This energetic piece is majestic and inspiring.

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
Organist:	Susan Lohnas
Choir Director:	Douglas Lohnas
Altar Guild:	Mary Alexander
Ushers:	Doreen May Marilyn Humphrey
Acolyte:	George Woodzell
Lector:	Mildred Gittinger
Intercessor:	George Woodzell
Counter:	Diana Belardo
Coffee Hour:	Sara and Joe Palko
Livestream Tech:	Loyal Williams

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Today's Altar Flowers are given by Don and Joan Csaposs in thanksgiving for Dyanna Csaposs and Brendan Csaposs.