



# The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, with the Rites of Confirmation, Reception, and  
the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☩ Richmond, Virginia

**Voluntary** Toccata in F major, BWV 540

J.S. Bach

## The Word of God

**Hymn 412** Earth and all stars *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

*Earth and All Stars*

### Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, page 413

*Bishop* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Bishop* There is one Body and one Spirit;

*People* **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

*Bishop* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

*People* **One God and Father of all.**

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Bishop* Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

### The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 226

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson** Acts 10:44-48 *Please sit.*

*Reader* A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*

**Psalm 98** *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 727

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.

2 **With his right hand and his holy arm \***  
**has he won for himself the victory.**

3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \***  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \***  
**with the harp and the voice of song.**

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

**8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \***  
**the lands and those who dwell therein.**

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.

**10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \***  
**and the peoples with equity.** *Silence is kept.*

**The Second Lesson** 1 John 5:1-6 *Please sit.*

*Reader* A Reading from the First Letter of John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*

**Hymn 455** O Love of God, how strong and true *Sung by all, standing.*

*Dunedin*

**The Gospel** John 15:9-17 *Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon** The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson *Please sit.*

**Presentation and Examination of the Candidates** *Remain seated.*

Prayer Book, page 415

*Bishop* The candidates for Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation will now be presented.

*The Candidates for Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation stand.*

*Rector* I present these persons for Confirmation.

I present these persons to be received into this Communion.

I present these persons who desire to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

Bishop Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates **I do.**

Bishop Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates **I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.**

*The Bishop invites the congregation to stand and addresses them, saying*

Bishop Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People **We will.**

Bishop Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

### **The Baptismal Covenant**

*Remain standing.*

Prayer Book, page 416

Bishop Do you believe in God the Father?

People **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

Bishop Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

### **Prayers for the Candidates**

Prayer Book, page 417

Bishop Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*A period of silence follows.*

Leader Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Open their hearts to your grace and truth.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Send them into the world in witness to your love.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory with all who have died, especially \_\_\_\_\_.  
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bishop Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The congregation sits.*

*The Bishop lays hands upon each candidate and says*

**For Confirmation** Prayer Book, page 418

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him/her/them* for your service; and sustain *him/her/them* all the days of *his/her/their* life. **Amen.**

**For Reception** Prayer Book, page 418

*N.*, we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you. **Amen.**

**For Reaffirmation** Prayer Book, page 419

*N.*, may the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom. **Amen.**

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer; please stand.*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace** *Please stand.* Prayer Book, page 360

Bishop The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
 People **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord. After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.*

**Welcome and Announcements, with recognition of graduating high school seniors**

**The Holy Communion**

*All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. The loose offering at this service is devoted to the bishop's discretionary fund. You may offer your gift online (scan this QR code) or in the offering plates as they come by.*



## At the Offertory

Upon your heart [9:00] *Sung by the choir.* music: Eleanor Daley; text: Song of Solomon 8:6-7; John 15:9-12  
Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love; Love one another as I have loved you, Then shall your joy be complete.

In the heart where love is abiding [11:15] *Sung by the choir.* music: plainsong chant, arr. John Barnard;  
words: Paul Wigmore, based on *Ubi caritas et amor*  
In the heart where love is abiding, God is in that heart.  
And the love of Christ has made us all of one heart.  
Then with joyful and with glad hearts let us thank him.  
Let us fear God and remember all his goodness.  
Let us love each other with a pure and clean heart.  
In the heart where love is abiding, God is in that heart.  
May no quarrelling or dispute come between us.  
Let us see your face, O Lord Christ, now, among us.  
Let us sing with all the angels praise to Jesus  
in a song of joy that wells up from a clean heart.  
In the heart where love is abiding, God is in that heart. Amen.

## At the Presentation *Sung by all, standing.*

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

*The fruits of our labor are presented to God, along with gifts for our food ministry.*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. O praise him; O praise him;**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

Prayer Book, page 367

*The people remain standing.*

*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.**

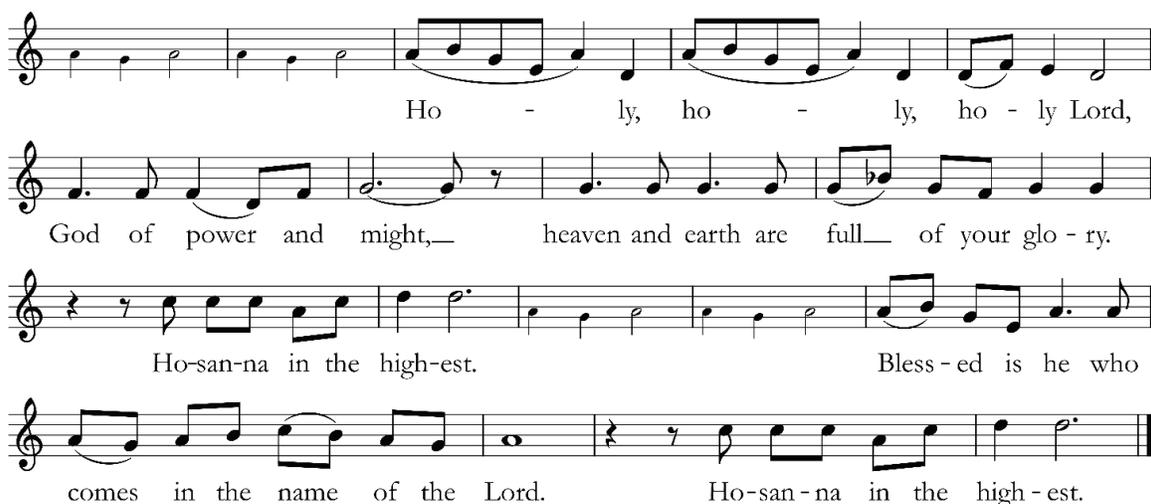
*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *Here a proper preface is said.*

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

*Sung by all.*

William Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*You may stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with blessed Stephen, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People*

Prayer Book, page 364

**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** *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*The cantor sings the antiphon, then all repeat. All sing the antiphon again after each verse.*

Mason Martens



The dis - ci - ples\_ knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing\_ of the bread.

*Cantor:*

- 1 The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. (*antiphon*)
- 2 One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. (*antiphon*)

## Celebrant

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## At the Communion of the People

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the chancel steps or in one of the side chapels (kneeling or standing). The altar also extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just let an usher know. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to "intinct" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups, available at all stations. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest.

## Music at Communion

**Anthem** A new commandment Sung by the choir. music: Thomas Tallis; text: John 13:34-35

A new commandment give I unto you, saith the Lord, that ye love together, as I have loved you, that e'en so ye love one another. By this shall ev'ry man know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**Hymn 606** Where true charity and love dwell Sung by all, seated. *Ubi caritas*

## Sending Forth Eucharistic Visitors

When a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is scheduled to visit a parishioner, the following is said.

Deacon N., we send you out to share Communion with N.

People **Carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.**

Deacon We who are many are one body because we share one bread and one cup. **Amen.**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. You may stand or kneel.

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.**

Prayer Book, page 366

**The Blessing** The Celebrant pronounces God's blessing.

**Hymn 390** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Sung by all, standing.

*Lobe den Herren*

## Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Voluntary** Fugue in F major, BWV 540

J.S. Bach



## Memorial

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of George V. Moncure Jr. by his family.

## The Parish Prayer List

Copies of the parish prayer list are available in the narthex (church vestibule) and at Information Central, the large table outside the parish office.

## Participants

9 A.M. // CELEBRANT AND PREACHER: The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson; BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN: The Rev. Canon d'Rue Hazel; DEACON: The Rev. William S. Stanley; SUBDEACON: Barbara Massey; READER/INTERCESSOR: Gayle Royals; ASSISTING CLERGY: The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins, the Rev. John D. Rohrs, the Rev. William L. Sachs; CHALICE BEARERS: Iffet Araniti-Davis, Scott Finn, Chip Jamerson, Alice Meadows; ACOLYTES: Caroline Douthat, Jim Douthat, Adell Hudson, Alice Kidd, Wiley Mulholland; LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR: Amy Mulholland; MUSICIANS: Members of St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards, *director*; Brent te Velde, *organ*; VERGER: Kathy Brock

11:15 A.M. // CELEBRANT AND PREACHER: The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson; BISHOP'S CHAPLAIN: The Rev. Canon d'Rue Hazel; DEACON: The Rev. Cate Anthony; SUBDEACON: Braxton Hill; READER/INTERCESSOR: Susan Davis; ASSISTING CLERGY: The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins, the Rev. John D. Rohrs, the Rev. William S. Stanley; CHALICE BEARERS: Tony Anthony, Allison Koschak, Connie Lankford, Laura Lewandowski; ACOLYTES: Eliza Hershey, Carter Spalding; MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards, *director*; Brent te Velde, *organ*; VERGER: Kathy Brock

## Candidates for Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Paul Joseph Amrhein	Carolyn A. Hyatt	Pierce Thomas Rempe
Charles Edward Ayers IV	Julianna Brooks King	Andrew Carroll Robertson
Frances Parker Birdsey	Eleanor Jane Klim	Elizabeth Rose Scholder
Thomas Henry Bowen-Rees	Marcus Lewis	Jerry Scholder
Alice Winston Branch	Edwin Harding Lucas	Emily Vaughan Sheppard
Cora Bates Coulbourn	Kenneth Wilson Lucas III	Mary Gay Shields
Hatcher Hill Cox	Kenneth Wilson Lucas IV	Frances Gray Smith
Clarke Wilson Dillard	Rebecca Jean Lucas	Virginia Medford Smith
Martha Pollard Easton	Elizabeth Adelaide Mathews	Elizabeth Embrick Spalding
Serpell Pocahontas Edmunds	Lillian Williams Mayer	Madeline Margaret Taliaferro
Andrew Michael Everett	Catherine Huntley McConnel	Meghan Cummings Thacker
Joanne Falk	James Walter McConnel	Steven Chapman Thacker
Katherine Johnson Farley	Towles English Melton	Katherine Hope Thompson
Madeleine Marie Faugot	Henry Cameron Mulholland	Lilly Elizabeth Thurmond
Alton David Fonville III	Douglas Whitfield Mullins	Lillian Grace Walker
Lauren Jane Frazier	Lucille Neely Oakey	Robert Meriwether Walker
Mary Koontz Greene	Courtenay Tayloe Palmer	Collin Benjamin Weis
Claiborne Buchanan Hall	Mary M. Peramus	Catharine Mason Williams
Catherine Elizabeth Haven	John Barry Purcell IV	Jaquelin Holt Allen Williams
Luke Buckler Hudson	Alexander Winston Reed	

## High School Seniors being blessed at this morning's services

Walker Angus	Garnett Hall	Alice Schnell
McLean Broaddus	William Hershey	Oliver Smith
Browning Curry	Adell Hudson	Carter Spalding
Jim Douthat	Lyla Mann	Josie Rempe
Berkeley Edmunds	Kathryn "Kate" Mitchell	Celia Tunner
Adelaide Goolsby	Catherine Owen	Claire Wise

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