



Thanksgiving Day

Thursday, November 27, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer: Rite One

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church & Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and to this annual service for Thanksgiving Day, a tradition begun in the 1920s, modified in the 1950s by the Rev. Reno Harp, and which has become one of the most well-attended services this parish offers. We welcome and include all people without exception and we extend a special greeting to visitors. Throughout this bulletin, helpful guidance is printed in italics. Visitor guides are found in racks at the entrance doors. When you wish to be known here, please fill out a welcome card (found in each pew or online); you may drop the card into the offering plate as it is passed. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We hope to see you again soon!

Prelude

Fanfare for the Common Man

Aaron Copland

Jerusalem

C. Hubert H. Parry

Balletto detto "Il conte Orlando," from *Ancient Airs and Dances*

Ottorino Respighi, arr. Craig Garner

Gagliarda

Ottorino Respighi, arr. Craig Garner

Amazing Grace

Traditional

Rhosymedre

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Hymn 290 Come, ye thankful people, come *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

St. George's, Windsor



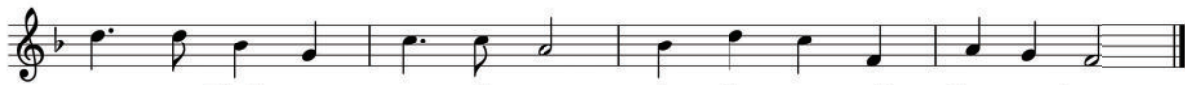
1. Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest-home:
2. All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
3. For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take his har - vest home;
4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest-home;



all is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown;
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin;



God, our Ma - ker, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied;
first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear:
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there, for ev - er pur - i - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide;



come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest-home.
grant, O har - vest Lord, that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
come, with all thine an - gels come, raise the glo - rious har - vest-home.

Opening Sentences

The Book of Common Prayer, page 40

Officiant O give thanks unto the Lord, and call upon his Name; tell the people what things he hath done.

Confession of Sin

Prayer Book, page 41

Officiant

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

You may kneel or stand. A period of silence is kept.

All

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

The Officiant alone stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Invitatory and Psalter

The people stand.

Officiant

O Lord, open thou our lips.

People

And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

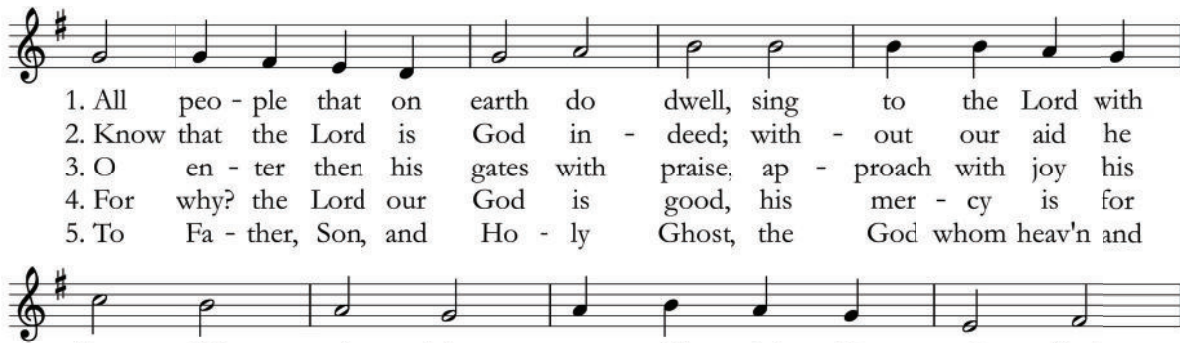
All

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

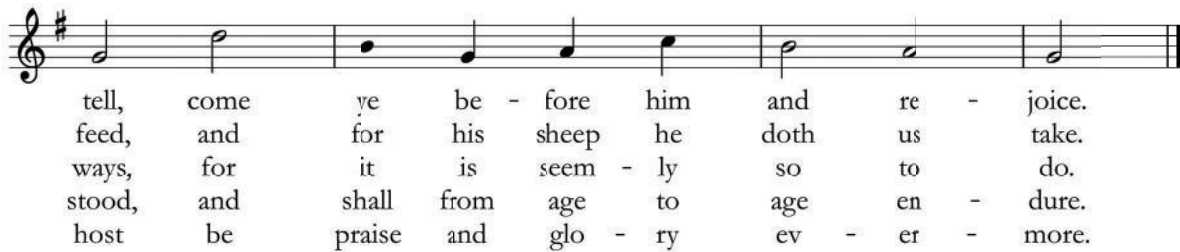
Hymn 377 All people that on earth do dwell

Old 100th

Sung by all. Stanzas 3 & 4 are sung by the choir alone.



1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with
2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our aid he
3. O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap - proach with joy his
4. For why? the Lord our God is good, his mer - cy is for
5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom heav'n and
cheer - ful voice: him serve with mirth, his praise forth
did us make: we are his folk, he doth us
courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his Name al -
ev - er sure; his truth at all times firm - ly
earth a - dore, from men and from the an - gel



Psalm 100 Said responsively by whole verse, seated.

Prayer Book, page 729

- 1 Be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; *
 serve the LORD with gladness
 and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 **Know this: The LORD himself is God;** *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
 go into his courts with praise; *
 give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- 4 **For the LORD is good;**
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Silence is kept.

The First Lesson Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Reader A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Anthem For the Beauty of the Earth *Sung by the choir.*

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth; for the beauty of the skies,
 For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
 Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
 Friends of earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine to our world so freely given,
 Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

The Second Lesson John 6:25-35 *Remain seated.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

When the crowd found Jesus on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Hymn 433 We gather together *Sung by all, standing.*

Kremser



1. We gath-er to - geth-er to ask the Lord's bless-ing; he chas-tens and
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing, or - dain - ing, main-
 3. We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um-phunt, and pray that thou
 hastens his will to make known; the wick-ed op - press-ing now cease from dis -
 tain-ing his king-dom di - vine; so from the be - gin-ning the fight_ we were
 still our de - fend - er wilt be. Let thy congre - ga - tion es - cape_ trib - u -
 tress - ing: sing prais - es to his Name;_ he for - gets not his own.
 win - ning: thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glo - ry be thine!
 la - tion: thy Name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

The Sermon The Rev. John D. Rohrs

The Apostles' Creed *Said by all, standing.*

Prayer Book, page 53

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Prayer Book, page 54

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Officiant Let us pray. *Please kneel as you are able.*

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 Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 194

Almighty and gracious Father, we give thee thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we beseech thee, faithful stewards of thy great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Litany of Thanksgiving *Remain kneeling.*

Prayer Book, page 837

Reader Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.
A period of silence is kept.

Reader For the beauty and wonder of thy creation, in earth and sky and sea,
People **We thank thee, Lord.**

Reader For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,
People **We thank thee, Lord.**

Reader For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,
People **We thank thee, Lord.**

Reader For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
People **We thank thee, Lord.**

Reader For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,
People **We thank thee, Lord.**

Reader For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,
People **We thank thee, Lord.**

Reader For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
People **We thank thee, Lord.**

Reader For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
People **We thank thee, Lord.**

Reader
People

Above all, we give thee thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Please be seated.

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. You may offer your gift in an offering plate as they come by or make a gift online by scanning the QR code or texting STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256. Cash offerings given during this service will support St. Stephen's food ministry for those in need.



At the Offertory

Gratias agimus tibi from Mass in B minor

Sung by the choir.

J. S. Bach

Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. (Translation: We give thanks to thee for thy great glory.)

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing as able.

Nun danket alle Gott

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



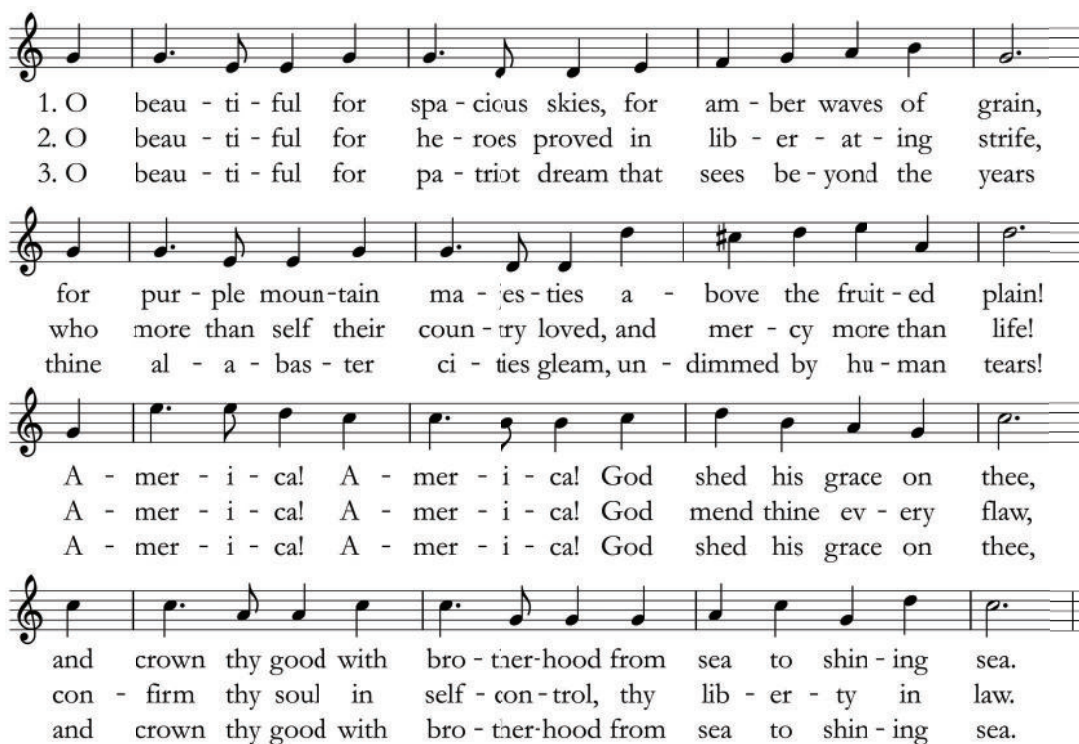
1. Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voice - es,
who won-drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
who from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way
with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.

Hymn 719

O beautiful for spacious skies

Sung by all, standing as able.

Materna



1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,
2. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,
3. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years
for pur - ple moun-tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!
who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!
thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!
A - mer - i - cal A - mer - i - cal God shed his grace on thee,
A - mer - i - cal A - mer - i - cal God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
A - mer - i - cal A - mer - i - cal God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with bro - ther-hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.
and crown thy good with bro - ther-hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

The General Thanksgiving

Prayer Book, page 54

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray. *Please kneel.*

All **Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world
by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace,
and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

Anthem The Lord Bless You and Keep You *Sung by the choir.*

John Rutter

The Lord bless you and keep you:

The Lord makes his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you
and give you peace. Amen.

Dismissal *Please stand.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Sentence

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Hymn 717 My country, 'tis of thee *Sung by all, standing.*

America

1. My coun-try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty, of thee I
2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free, thy name I
3. Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet free-dom's
4. Our fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of lib - er - ty, to thee we
sing; land where my fa - thers died, land of the pil - grim's pride,
love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and tem - pled hills;
song; let mor - tal tongues a - wake, let all that breathe par - take,
sing; long may our land be bright with free-dom's ho - ly light;
from ev - ery moun - tain - side let free - dom ring,
my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King.

Hymn 720

O say can you see

Sung by all, standing.

National Anthem



O say can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly light, whatso proud - ly we
hailed at the twi - light's last gleam - ing, whose broad stripes and bright
stars, through the per-il-ous fight, o'er the ramparts we watched, were so gal-lant-ly
stream - ing? And the rock - ets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave
proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say does that star-spangled
ban-ner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

PostludeSonata, from *Die Bänkelsängerlieder*

Anonymous

**Memorials**

The Thanksgiving arrangements are given to the glory of God and in memory of T. Coleman Andrews, Jr. and Barbara Ransome Andrews by their children and grandchildren; Emory and Carrington Williams, Jr. and Timothy C. McCoy, Sr. by the McCoy/Driscoll family; and Ruth and Joseph McCoy and Jeanette Mellor by Carol McCoy.

Participants

OFFICIANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony; **PREACHER:** The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **LAY READERS:** M James Driscoll, Sharon Machrone; **ACOLYTES:** Granger Bradshaw, Lee Driscoll, Wyatt Hobbs, Nina Matos, Henry Mulholland, Tripp Schnell; **MUSICIANS:** St. Stephen's Choir; Chris Edwards, *director*; Sebastian Ford and Dan Stott, *trumpets*; Amanda Burton, *horn*; Alex Theofanos, *trombone*; Jeff Hudson, *tuba*; John Campbell, *timpani*; Diana Chou, *organ*; **VERGER:** Kathy Brock

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