



Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☩ Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to the Palmer Hall service

We are delighted you are here. Wherever you might be on your faith journey, we hope your experience here will strengthen and affirm you. We are sure that your presence among us today strengthens others, and we welcome you to join in everything that St. Stephen's offers. Every Sunday, we offer several different services of worship (at 8, 9 and 11:15 a.m., and 5:30 and 8 p.m.), each with its own character. At 9 a.m., two services are happening simultaneously—one in the main church, and this one which takes place in Palmer Hall Chapel.

The Palmer Hall service for some feels especially welcoming to families, particularly those with babies and children. Both of the 9 a.m. services—this one, and the one in the main church—include important roles for children, and people of all ages are welcome at any service. In Palmer Hall, our worship space includes a “soft space.” This is an area with a rug, floor cushions, and children's books where children can move a bit more freely and comfortably than they can in rows of seating. Please accompany your child to the soft space if and when they want to visit it; this helps us ensure the safety and comfort of our whole community.

Both of the 9 a.m. services include Holy Eucharist. All are welcome at the altar in this place. 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, touching the edge of the bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms on the front of your chest. Children who have been baptized are welcome to receive communion. The important thing is that you know God welcomes you and that this church welcomes you. Please come back often.

Prelude Savior, like a shepherd lead us

Bradbury, arr. John Carter

Welcome

The Word of God

Opening hymn

Ubi caritas

Sung by all, standing, several times.

Jacques Berthier

U - bi car - i - tas et a - mor, u - bi car - i - tas De - us i - bi est.

Translation: Where charity and love are, God is there.

Opening Confession

adapted from Nathan Nettleton

Celebrant Jesus said: Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As siblings in God's family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

All **Wondrous God,**
we confess that we have not listened for your Word as we should.
We confess that we have placed obstacles in the way of our neighbors.
We are guilty of being proud and arrogant.
Forgive us for our foolish and harmful ways.
Forgive us for taking your amazing gift of grace for granted.
Redirect us, by your Spirit,
that we may be your faithful people once again. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord is steadfast in love
and hears the prayers of all who come seeking mercy.
God reaches out to us in Jesus Christ
forgiving our sins
and nourishing us for life without limit.
Dear friends, your sins are forgiven.
Be at peace.

All **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 219

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Joshua 5:9-12

Reader A reading from the Book of Joshua.

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32 *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 624

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

**2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

**4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

**6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

**8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

**10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you.”**

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

**12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

The Gospel Song

Like a shepherd

Robert J. Dufford

Sung twice by all, standing, before and after the Gospel.



Like a shep-herd he feeds his flock, and ga-thers the lambs in his arms.



Hold-ing them care-ful-ly close to his heart, lead-ing them home.

The Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So Jesus told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Wondering The Rev. Abby Kocher
The children are invited to gather on the center rug.

The Creed *Said by all, standing.*

**I believe in God above,
I believe in Jesus' love.
I believe God's Spirit too,
comes to tell me what to do.**

**I believe that I can be
kind and good,
dear Lord, like thee.**

The Prayers of the People *Please remain standing*

Deacon Today we will each use a hand to guide us through our prayers. Hold your hands together and take a deep breath, becoming aware of God's presence here.

Deacon The thumb is closest to our heart. As we hold our thumbs, we remember what we hold closest to our hearts. We pray for our family, friends, and neighbors. We also rejoice in the good things that have happened this week, [especially _____].

Deacon We sometimes call our index finger our "pointer." As we hold our index fingers, we direct our prayers toward situations of great need. We pray for those experiencing famine and disaster, and for all places of war and conflict, especially Eastern Europe and the Holy Land.

Deacon Our tallest finger is also our strongest. As we hold our tallest fingers, we remember those who hold power in this world. We pray they will have the strength to seek justice and truth.

Deacon Our ring finger is our most fragile finger. As we hold our ring fingers, we think of those who find themselves in the most fragile moments of life. We pray especially for those who are sick and lonely. We remember also those who have died, [especially _____], and all those who grieve.

Deacon Our pinky is our smallest finger. As we hold our pinkies, we remember ourselves before God. We pray that God will grant us what we need, give us hearts to love and serve, and shield our joy.

Deacon Finally, we join our hands together, offering our prayers to God. Lord God, you promise to hear us when we pray. Draw close to us as we lift up our hearts to you, in the name of your son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace

Prayer Book, page 360

Celebrant 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.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:15, 16

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 online (use the QR code, or text STSTEPHENSVA to 73256), or in the offering plates as they come by.



Offertory Just as I am

Woodworth, arr. Joel Raney

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

All things are thine; no gift_ have we, Lord of all gifts, to of - fer thee; and



hence with grate - ful hearts to - day_ thine own be - fore_ thy feet_ we lay.

The children are invited to follow the ushers forward to sit on the rug in front of the altar for the Great Thanksgiving.

The Great Thanksgiving

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Celebrant The Lord is here.

People **God's Spirit is with us.**

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 God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again. He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so with thanks we praise you, singing:

Sanctus*Sung by all.**Land of Rest*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, — Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant

We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them. 'This is my body,' he said, 'Do this, and know that I am with you.' Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said 'This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you.' And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people. Help us to care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land, we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.

People **Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. 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.

David Hurd, S-161



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant _____ us peace.

The Invitation

Celebrant

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

At the Communion of the People

Communion will be served at two stations, standing. All are welcome to come forward. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms on the front of your chest.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *Please stand.*

All **Lord God,**
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Blessing Song Go Now in Peace

Sung by all, standing.

Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you,
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Hymn 439 What wondrous love is this

Sung by all.

Wondrous Love

Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Praise to the Lord, the almighty

Lobe Den Herren, arr. John Carter



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John Jenkins

DEACON: The Rev. Abby Kocher

MUSICIAN: Kerry Court, *piano*

The Parish Prayer List

Charles Adams, Abigail Palmer Anthony, Rubylane Armstrong, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Nancy Beeler, Robert Bjorkholm, Christine Boeteger, Denise Bondy, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Liz Brengel, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Ann Campbell, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Helen Clendenin, Percy Cochran, Susan Collier, Caswell Cooke, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Stephanie Copeland, John Corey, Randy Correll, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Steven Dalle Mura, Chris Davis, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Davis Dunn Dillard, Eddie Doyle, Barbara Hall Dunn, Guy Frank, Julia G., Yvette Gerardin, Frank Ginty, Janis Hall, Mary Hancock, Rodger Hardy, Marianne Harmuth, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Tom Hodges, Deborah Hodgson-Lyons, Anna Hurdle, Esther Hutchison, Julie and Tom Imeson, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Brian Jones, Lena Jones, Gouthum Karadi, Jane Kelly, Dana King, Diedra Kriewald, Hanns Kuttner, Caleb Lambert, Laura Lewandowski, Linda Lewis, Eva Lindsay, Sharon Livsie, Brenda Lorenz, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Ross Mackenzie, Peggy Maguire, Nick Martina, Barbara Mathison, Richard Maxwell, Virginia Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Schnucki McCabe, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Gertrude McLean, Melanie, Jack Miller, John Miller, Mary Miller, Melanie Lohr Miller, Hoyt Minyard, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, Mary Beth Noel, Lynn Parli, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Bob Pope, Tom Rader, Bryson Raquet, Wick Raquet, Sara Ritter, Stephanie Roberts, Linda Robinson, Alison Roussy, Brenda Quinn, Jason R., Jennifer Reed, Kaley Rosenthal, Robert Sass, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, T. Logan Scott, Charlie Seilheimer, Margie Sesler, Jane Settle, Jim and Mary Beth Shannon, Torrey Shuford, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Ben Sparks, Reilly Starr, Dorothy Suskind, Margaret Teachey, Jens Tholand, Margaret Thompson, Nelson Toebe, Langdon Tollett, Tom Turney, Kenneth Valke, Cordelia Vogel, Timothy W., Mac Wade, Ozzie Wade, Suzanne Wallace, Baird Weisleder, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Nelson Williams, Trevor Wilson, Mary Wiltshire, Trevor Wingate, *Keith Witherspoon, Claire Wood, Emily Wood, Riley Wood, Paul Leddingdon Wright, Karen Young, Margaret P. Young.* **For those expecting a child**, especially Natalie and Lewis Jones, Stuart and Melissa Kegan, Sarah and Andrew Klein, and Elizabeth and Matson Roberts. **For those who have died**, especially *Kay Best*. **For our missionaries**, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, and the people they serve in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for *Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo*. **For ReWork Richmond. For an end to gun violence. For peace and reconciliation** in Haiti, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, North Korea, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine, and at our borders. **For those serving overseas in the military or diplomatic service:** CPT Anna Broadbent-Evelyn and Lt. Jonathan Dean Hudson.

Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week.

In order to keep our prayer list current and facilitate the intentionality and mindfulness with which we pray, we print names on the list for three months or less. If you would like for someone to remain on the list for more (or less) time, please call the office or email Mary Feldman at mfeldman@ststephensRVA.org.

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