



Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Second Sunday of Easter

Holy Baptism

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 Tell me the story of Jesus

John R. Sweeney

Welcome

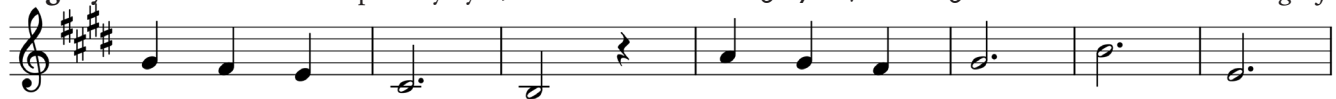
The Word of God

Opening Hymn

Open my eyes, Lord

Sung by all, standing.

Songs of Love



1. O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
2. O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
3. O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.



O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see._____
O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear._____
O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love._____

Opening Acclamation

Deacon Alleluia. Christ is risen!

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

Deacon Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

People **God's faithful love endures forever!**

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 222

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; 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 5:27-32

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150

Said responsively by whole verse, seated.

Prayer Book, page 807

1 Hallelujah!

Praise God in his holy temple; *
praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 **Praise him for his mighty acts; ***
praise him for his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; *
praise him with lyre and harp.

4 **Praise him with timbrel and dance; ***
praise him with strings and pipe.

5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; *
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.

6 **Let everything that has breath ***
praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

The Gospel Song

Celtic Alleluia

Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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



The Gospel John 20:19-31

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

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed

them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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.

Presentation and Examination of the Candidates *Remain seated.*

Prayer Book, page 301

Celebrant The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

Parents and Godparents of the Candidates

I present Blake Carter Francis to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Graham Thomas McCorey to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Charlotte Lawrence Morris to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Cora Lucy Young to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Question Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life?

Answer I will, with God's help.

Question Will you by your prayers and witness help these children to grow into the full stature of Christ?

Answer I will, with God's help.

Question Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Answer I do.

Question Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer I do. *All stand.*

The Celebrant invites the congregation to stand and addresses them, saying

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

People **We will.**

Celebrant Let us renew our own baptismal covenant, remembering the commitment to Christ made in baptism.

The Baptismal Covenant *Remain standing.*

Prayer Book, page 304

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

Celebrant 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.**

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

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

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

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

Celebrant 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 305

Celebrant Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

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.
 People **Lord, hear our prayer.**
 Celebrant Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Christ by water and the Spirit, may live reborn in the freedom and power of his resurrection, and so we offer thanks for the blessings of life, [especially for _____], and we commend to you those who have died [remembering especially ____]; with all the saints we offer our prayers, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children are invited to come forward to the font for the baptism.

Thanksgiving over the Water *Please remain standing and face the font.* Prayer Book, page 306

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
 People **And also with you.**
 Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
 Celebrant We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life. We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

At the following words, the Celebrant touches the water.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Baptism Prayer Book, page 307

Each candidate is presented by name to the Celebrant, who then pours water upon the candidate, saying

*N., I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

A priest then anoints the newly baptized with oil, saying

*N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. **Amen.***

Celebrant Let us pray.
 Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All **We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**

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.

All O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256), or in the offering plates as they come by.



Offertory

Be thou my vision

Slane, traditional Irish hymn

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing.

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise him, all creatures here be -
low. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a - bove, ye heav-'nly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. O praise him; O
praise him; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

Common Worship, Prayer 2

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.

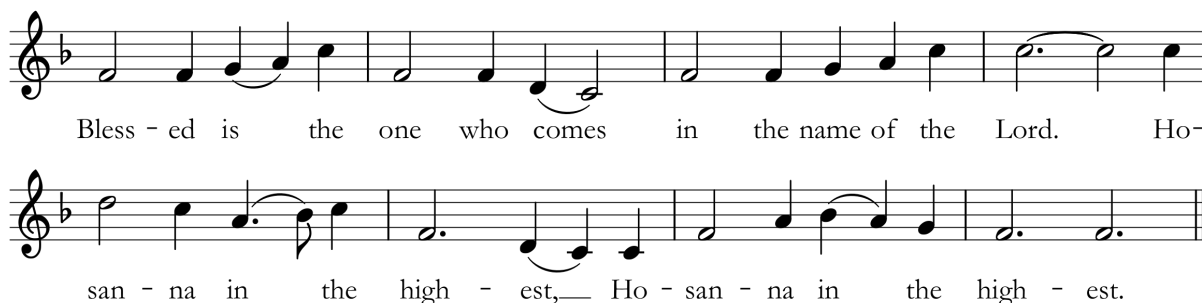
Celebrant Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

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.



Celebrant

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Savior.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with blessed Stephen, Mary, Mother of God, and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

Celebrant and People

**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.**

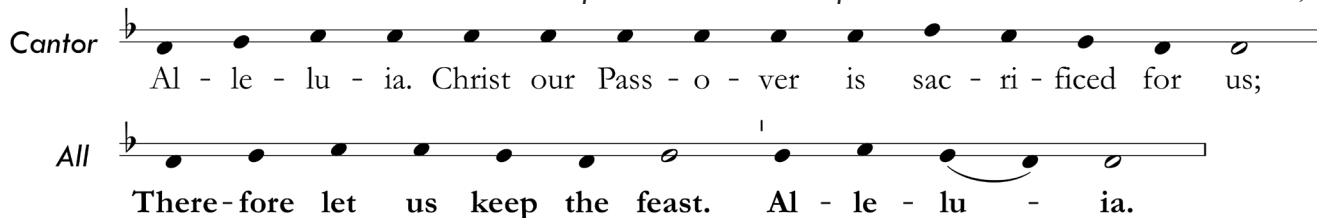
**And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer Book, page 364

The Breaking of the Bread

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

Mason Martens, S-152



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 **Loving God, we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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 209 We walk by faith, and not by sight *Sung by all.* *St. Botolph*

Dismissal Prayer Book, page 366

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

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

Postlude Abide with me William H. Monk



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Will Stanley

DEACON: The Rev. Abby Kocher

MUSICIAN: David Kim, *piano*

Presented for Holy Baptism

Blake Carter Francis, child of John Joseph Francis IV and Janaina Diazzi Francis

Graham Thomas McCorey, child of William Edward McCorey and Margaret Graham McCorey

Charlotte Lawrence Morris, child of Andrew Bryant Morris and Emily Lawrence Morris

Cora Lucy Young, child of Matthew Thomas Young and Lindsey Elizabeth Jones

The Parish Prayer List

Copies of the parish prayer list are available at Information Central outside the parish office.

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