



Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Feast of St. Stephen

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

Welcome

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

Will you let me be your servant?

The Servant Song, Richard Gillard

Sung by all, standing.



Opening Prayer

Deacon We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
People **Let us recognize his presence with us.**
Deacon As God's people we have gathered:
People **let us worship him together.**

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 237

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Heroic Service: a Prayer for Veterans Day

Prayer Book, page 839

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lesson Acts 6:1-7 Please sit.

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

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

Psalm 31:1-5 Said responsively by whole verse, seated.

Prayer Book, page 622

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 **Incline your ear to me; ***
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, ***
for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

The Gospel Song

This little light of mine

traditional spiritual

Sung by all, standing. Following the Gospel, all remain standing and repeat verse 1.

1. This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine. This lit-tle light of mine,
2. Je - sus_ gave it to me, I'm gon-na let it shine. Je - sus_ gave it to me,
3. Ev-'ry - where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine. Ev-'ry - where I go,

I'm gon - na let it shine. This lit - tle light of mine,
I'm gon - na let it shine. Je - sus_ gave it to me,
I'm gon - na let it shine. Ev - 'ry - where I go,

I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
I'm gon-na let it shine. Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

The Gospel Luke 20:27-38

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

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

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her."

Jesus said to them, "Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Wondering The Rev. Abby Kocher and Heidi Schmidt, St. Stephen's Missionary in Argentina

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 God has promised to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith; therefore, let us pray.

In the silence following each petition the people may add their prayers either silently or aloud.

Deacon God, we pray for our families, friends, pets, and others in our everyday lives.

We pray to keep them healthy, safe, and happy. We love them.

People **God hears me when I pray.**

Deacon God, we pray for doctors, teachers, coaches, priests, youth group leaders and caregivers.
We give thanks for the difference they make in our lives.

People **God hears me when I pray.**

Deacon God, we pray for our elected government leaders that you fill them with wisdom to make good choices
and to live honest lives.

People **God hears me when I pray.**

Deacon God, we pray for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people, especially
in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and all places of conflict. Pray for justice and peace.

People **God hears me when I pray.**

Deacon God, we pray for our church, St. Stephen's, that we may grow closer to each other and closer to you.

People **God hears me when I pray.**

Deacon God, we pray for those who are weak, sick, sad, or alone to bring peace and healing to them.

People **God hears me when I pray.**

Deacon God, we thank you for all the blessings of this life, [including _____].

People **God hears me when I pray.**

Deacon God, we pray for those who have died and are no longer with us, [especially _____].

People **God hears me when I pray.**

The people may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.

Deacon
May God still our minds, calm our hearts, breathe fresh life into us, and make us instruments of peace. **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

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

*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.*



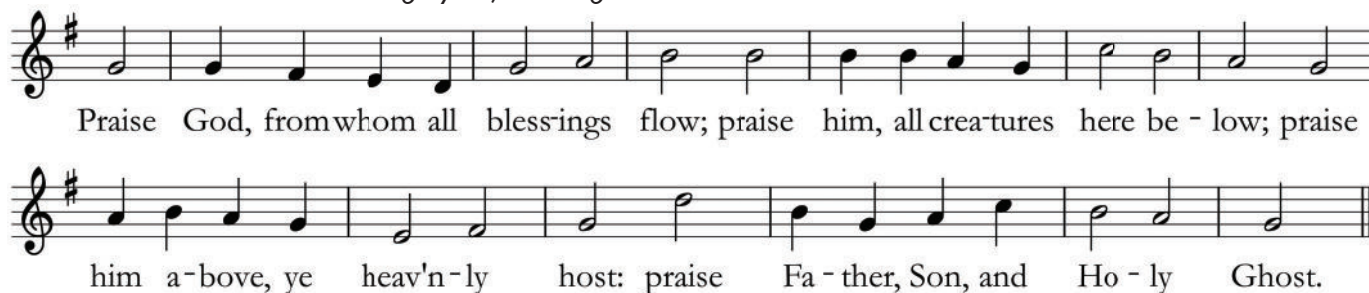
Offertory anthem A prayer

music: Richard Lloyd; text: Irene Cavanaugh

Lord, I would give this all of me
That I might live awhile in thee:
That more and more this heart of mine
Might thee adore and be all thine.

Wilt thou then take a gift so small
That for thy sake is none at all?
E'en such as I, blind, foolish, dumb,
Lord, bid thy little servant come.

Lord, I would give this all of me
That I might live awhile in thee:
If more and more this heart of mine
Might thee adore and be all thine.

At the Presentation*Sung by all, standing.**Old 100th*

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, Eucharistic Prayer II*

Celebrant The Lord is here.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

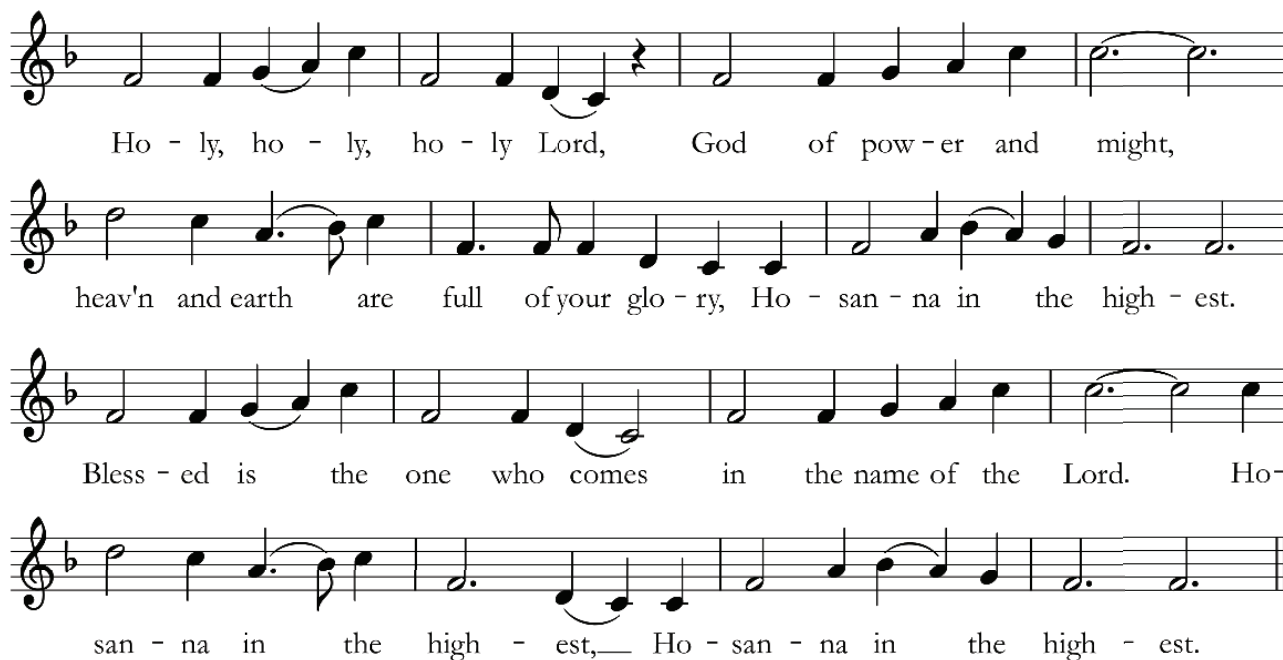
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

It is right indeed, it is our joy and delight, O holy, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son. You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us. When we turned away from you, you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. Through Christ Jesus you have made us your holy people. Therefore, with the faithful who rest in him, with the angels who sing "Glory," and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we proclaim your great and glorious name together:

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

Celebrant

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son, who washed his followers' feet. "I am among you," he said, "as one who serves." On that night before he died, he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them saying: "Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me." After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks to you, and gave it to them saying: "This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me." Therefore with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us. In this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith,

All Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again in glory.

Celebrant

God of all creation, you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these your gifts, that we who receive them may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

All Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.

Celebrant For you, O heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

All All praise, glory and love be yours, O Holy God, this and every day, from us and all people, here and everywhere. 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.

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.

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

Natalie Sleeth

Hymn 655 O Jesus, I have promised *Sung by all.*

Nyland

Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony

DEACON: The Rev. Abby Kocher

WONDERING: Heidi Schmidt

MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Choristers, Diana Chou, *director*; Kerry Court, *piano*

The Parish Prayer List

Leilani Allwine, Richelle Anderson, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Sue Atkinson, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Ken Blaisdell, Christine Boeteger, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Gene Bowles, Sturges Brian, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, the Robert Burns family, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Randy Correll, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Steven Dalle Mura, Daniel and family, Chris Davis, Patricia Delany, Jackie Dering, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Davis Dunn Dillard, Susan Dull, Barbara Hall Dunn, Charlotte and Wade Elliott, Guy Frank, Julia G., April Greenwood, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Deborah Hodgson-Lyons, Anna Hurdle, Esther Hutchison, Alan Jamesieson, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Lena Jones, Gouthum Karadi, Jane Kelly, Dana King, William Turner Kump, Margee Krebs, Linda Lewis, Joy Luke, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Ross Mackenzie, Barbara Mathison, Satin Matthews, Adrienne Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Schnucki McCabe, Morgan McCall, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Gertrude McLean, Nancy Meath, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, B. Millner, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Sallie Nolte, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Bob Pope, Lee Powell, Lyn Presson, Luke Robertson, Jason R., Ray, Jennifer Reed, Aleta Richards, Kaley Rosenthal, Carole Roth, Robert Sass, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, Melissa Schick, T. Logan Scott, Bette Shiflett, Maj. David Shuford, Jr., Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Regena Stith, Margaret Teachey, Jens Tholand, Margaret Thompson, Nelson Toebbe, Langdon Tollett, Kenneth Valke, Timothy W., Mac Wade, Ozzie Wade, Carol and Don Wakeley, Suzanne Wallace, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, *Martha Wilson*, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Young, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life**, especially the *marriage of Rodes Gardner and Margaret Jensen*. **For those who have died**, especially *Brian Morgan*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Maddie and Matthew Clites, Ian Hayes and Corinne Torres, and Michelle and Dane Olsson. **For our missionaries**, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, and the people they serve in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the *Church in the Province of the West Indies*. **For ReWork Richmond**. **For an end to gun violence**. **For peace and reconciliation** in Haiti, Iraq, Iran, Israel/Palestine, Nigeria, 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, Lt. Jonathan Dean Hudson, and Lt. Alex Whitmire. *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 Kitty Ball at kball@ststephensRVA.org.

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