



The Baptism of our Lord

Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Baptism

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☞ Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. We are glad you are here. We welcome and include all people without exception and we extend a special greeting to any 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. Children are very welcome in this service, and child care is also available for infants and children through age four in our nursery on the lower level near the main parking lot entrance; greeters are happy to guide you. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. We hope to see you again soon!

Voluntary *Vater unser im Himmelreich*

J.S. Bach

The Word of God

Hymn 616 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

Sung by all, standing as you are able. All hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982, the blue book in your pew rack.

Opening Acclamation

The Book of Common Prayer, page 299

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;

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

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

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

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 214

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. *A period of silence is kept.*

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lesson Isaiah 42:1-9 *Please sit.*

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
 worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
 the God of glory thunders; *
 the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
 the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
 the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
 and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
 the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
 the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
 and strips the forests bare.**
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
 all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
 the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.**
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
 the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

A period of silence is kept.

Hymn 121 Christ, when for us you were baptized *Sung by all, standing.*

Caithness

The Gospel Matthew 3:13-17 *Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

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

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

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon The Rev. John D. Rohrs

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 William Samuel Ashbridge to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Leroy Edward Anthony Duncan to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Frederick Carlisle Jones to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Marshall Winslow Roberts to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

I present Robin Parker Toohers 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 this child 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.

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

The Baptismal Covenant

Remain standing, as able.

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.**

As the baptismal families move toward the font, all children are invited to come to the font to participate in the blessing of the water.

Thanksgiving over the Water

Please remain standing, as able, 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.**

The Celebrant 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. After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

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. 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.



At the Offertory Listen, sweet dove

Sung by the choir.

text: George Herbert; music: Grayston Ives

Listen sweet dove unto my song
And spread thy golden wings in me;
Hatching my tender heart so long
Till it get wing and flie away with thee.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow
That the earth did like a heaven appear,
The starres were coming down to know
If they might mend their wages and serve here.

The sunne which once did shine alone,
Hung down his head and wisht for night
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one
Going about the world and giving light.

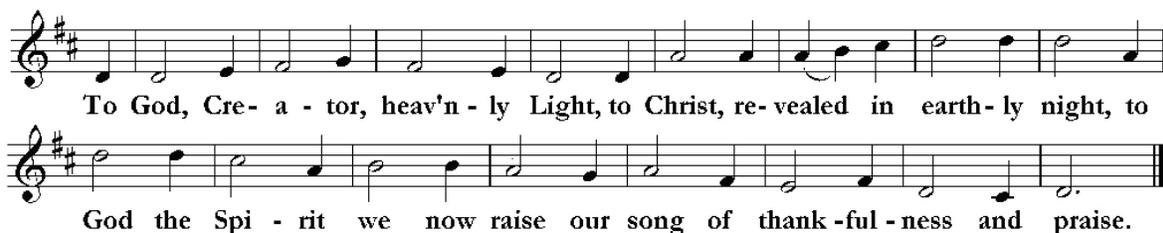
Lord though we change thou art the same,
The same sweet God of love and light;
Restore this day for thy great name,
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing.

Puer nobis

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



To God, Cre- a - tor, heav'n - ly Light, to Christ, re- vealed in earth- ly night, to
God the Spi - rit we now raise our song of thank - ful - ness and praise.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B, *Alternate Form*

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 our thanks and praise.**

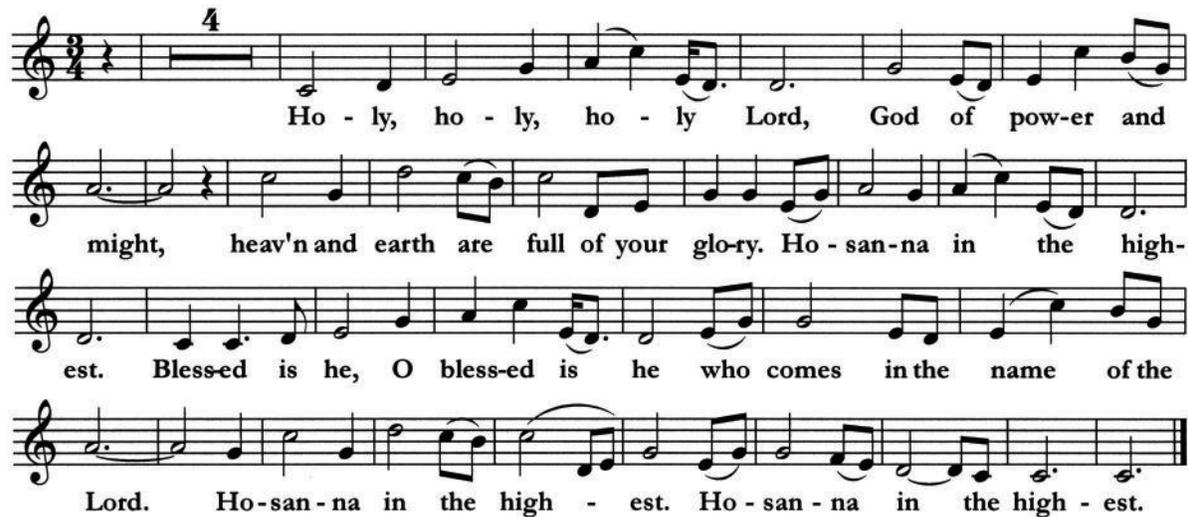
Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. *Here a proper preface is said.*

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.

James Macmillan



4
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 he, O bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est. 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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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 Christ's death,

We proclaim Christ's resurrection,

We await Christ's coming in glory;

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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; Blessed Mary, Mother of God; and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

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

**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.*

James Macmillan

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.

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

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the chancel steps and in both side chapels. 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, cross one hand over the other, 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 *Lux aurumque* *Sung by the choir.* Eric Whitacre
Lux, calida gravisque pura velut aurum *Translation:* Light, warm and heavy as pure gold
et canunt angeli molliter modo natum. and the angels sing softly to the new-born baby.

Hymn 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness *Sung by all, seated.* *Schmücke dich*

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray. *You may stand or kneel.*

All **Almighty and everliving God,** Prayer Book, page 366
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.

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

Hymn 448 O love, how deep, how broad, how high *Sung by all, standing.* *Deus tuorum militum*

Dismissal Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary Fanfare on *Hymn to Joy* Paul Fey



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony; **DEACON:** The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins; **SUBDEACON:** Clarice Dibble; **LAY READER:** Abigail Moore; **INTERCESSOR:** Mary Ball; **PREACHER:** The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **ASSISTING PRIEST:** The Rev. William S. Stanley; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Bob Dibble, Kristen Estes, Gibboney Huske, Kim Schmidt; **ACOLYTES:** Preston Cochrane, Ann Rohrs, Tom Rohrs, Will Rohrs, Holy Williams, Julia Hunter Williams; **MUSICIANS:** St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards, *director*; Donald Anderson, *organ*; **VERGER:** Andy Luke

Presented for Holy Baptism

William Samuel Ashbridge, child of Thomas Llewellyn Ashbridge V and Amanda Hope Ashbridge
Leroy Edward Anthony Duncan, child of Benjamin Edward Duncan and Alexandra Nicole Dominguez
Frederick Carlisle Jones, child of Lewis Pryor Jones and Natalie Newton Jones
Marshall Winslow Roberts, child of Matson Lamar Roberts Jr and Elizabeth Kerns Roberts
Robin Parker Toohers, child of Patrick Lawrence Toohers and Elizabeth Carter Toohers

Copies of the parish prayer list are available at Information Central (the large table outside the parish office) and in the narthex (the vestibule inside the Three Chopt Road entrance to the church).

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☎ 6000 Grove Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 ☎ 804.288.2867 ☎ ststephensRVA.org