



# The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday, February 8, 2026 at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

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**      We three kings

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

## The Word of God

**Hymn 530**      Spread, O spread, thou mighty word

*Gott sei Dank*

*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 355

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

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

**The Collect for Purity**

*Said by all.*

Prayer Book, page 355

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Song of Praise**

*Sung by all.*

*Mit Freuden zart*

Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre - a - tion, the  
Let all who name Christ's ho - ly Name give God all praise and glo - ry; let

God of power, the God of love, the God of our sal - va - tion; with  
all who know his power pro-claim a - loud the won - drous sto - ry! Cast

heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and ev - ery faith - less  
each false i - dol from its throne, the Lord is God, and

mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.  
he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

## The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 216

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson** Isaiah 58:1-12 *Please sit.*

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

## Psalm 112:1-9

Prayer Book, page 755; antiphon: Chris Edwards; chant: Philip Tordoff

*The antiphon will be sung once by the choir, then repeated by all. The verses will be sung by the choir.*



1 Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD \*  
and have great delight in his commandments!

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; \*  
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, \*  
and their righteousness will last for ever. *Antiphon*

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; \*  
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

5 It is good for them to be generous in lending \*  
and to manage their affairs with justice.

6 For they will never be shaken; \*  
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance. *Antiphon*

7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; \*  
    their heart is right; they put their trust in the LORD.

8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, \*  
    until they see their desire upon their enemies.

9 They have given freely to the poor, \*  
    and their righteousness stands fast for ever;  
    they will hold up their head with honor. *Antiphon*

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Hymn 542** Christ is the world's true Light *Sung by all, standing.* *St. Joan*

**The Gospel** Matthew 5:13-20 *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 said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

*Deacon*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## The Sermon The Rev. John D. Rohrs

## The Nicene Creed      *Said by all, standing.*

Prayer Book, page 358

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the V  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate  
    he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living  
    and the dead,  
    and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Celebrant** Let us pray for the church and the world.

*You may stand or kneel.*

*In the course of the pause after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

**Leader** Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

**Celebrant** Lord, in your mercy

**People** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

**Celebrant** Lord, in your mercy

**People** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

**Celebrant** Lord, in your mercy

**People** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

**Celebrant** Lord, in your mercy

**People** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** We remember especially those who suffer in all places of conflict at home and abroad, including those people and places we name now, silently or aloud: [REDACTED]. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

**Celebrant** Lord, in your mercy

**People** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** We commend to your mercy all who have died, [especially [REDACTED]] that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

**Celebrant** Lord, in your mercy

**People** **Hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant** Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Celebrant** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence is kept.*

**All** **Most merciful God,**

**we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

**Celebrant**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People **And also with you.**

Prayer Book, page 360

*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 STSTEPHENSRA to 73256.*



## At the Offertory

*O lux beatissima* [9:00]

*Sung by the choir.*

Howard Helvey

*O lux beatissima*

*Translation:* O Light most blessed,

*Reple cordis intima*

Fill the inmost heart

*Tuorum fidelium.*

Of all thy faithful.

*Sine tuo numine,*

Without your grace

*Nihil est in homine,*

There is nothing in us,

*Nihil est innoxium.*

Nothing that is not harmful.

Seek him that maketh the seven stars [11:15] *Sung by the choir.*

text: Amos 5:8; music: Jonathan Dove

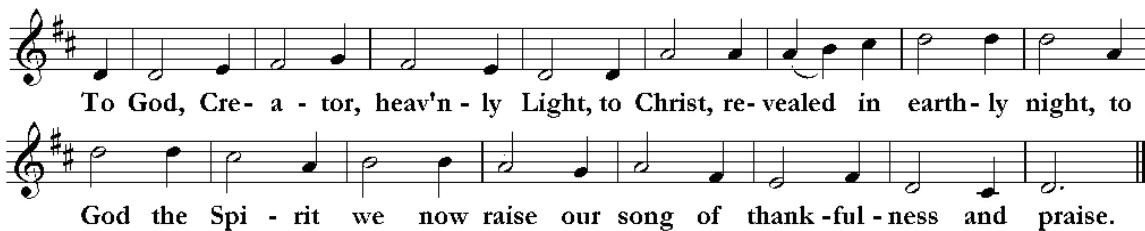
Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion and turneth the shadow of death into the morning. Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, the night is light about me. Amen.

## 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.*

The Hymnal S-114, Healey Willan

*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,**

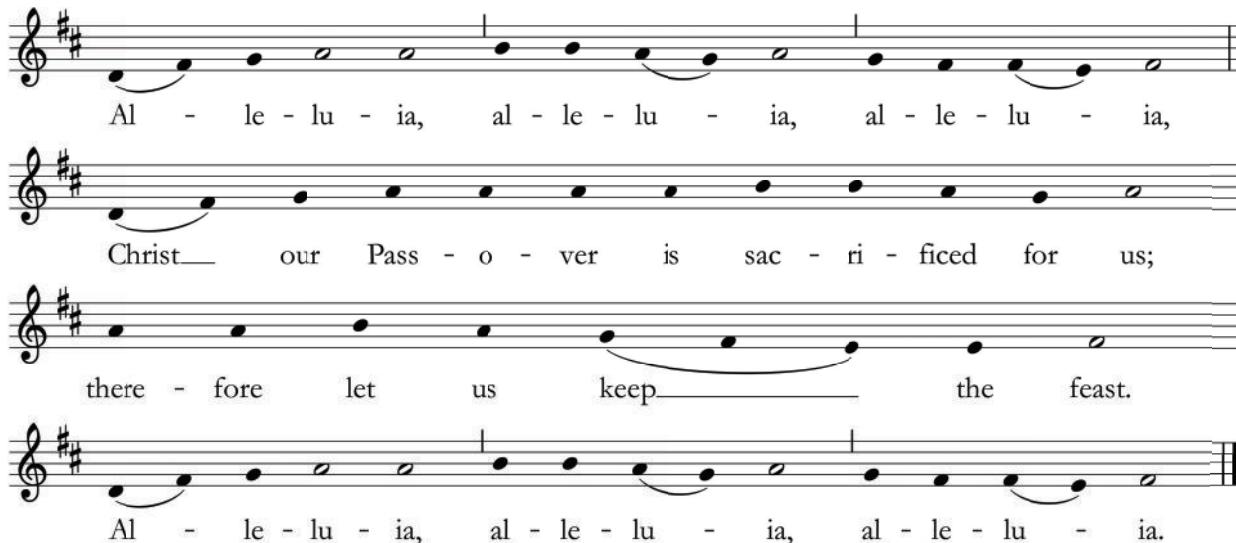
**as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

The Hymnal S-154, David Hurd



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Celebrant*

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### At the Communion of the People

*All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the chancel steps [9:00] or the high altar [11:15] 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**

If ye love me

*Sung by the choir.*

text: John 14:15-18; music: Philip Wilby

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever; e'en the spirit of truth. And ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

**Hymn 321** My God, thy table now is spread

*Sung by all, seated.*

*Rockingham*

### Sending Forth Eucharistic Visitors

*When a Lay Eucharistic Visitor is scheduled to visit a parishioner, the following is said.*

**Deacon**

*N.*, we send you out to share Communion with *N.*

**People**

**Carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.**

**Deacon**

We who are many are one body because we share one bread and one cup. **Amen.**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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

All

**God of abundance,**  
**you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;**  
**you have united us with Christ and one another;**  
**and you have made us one with all your people**  
**in heaven and on earth.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,**  
**that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world**  
**and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

*The Celebrant pronounces God's blessing.*

**Hymn 497**

How bright appears the Morning Star

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Wie schön leuchtet*

**Dismissal**

**Deacon**

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

**People**

**Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Book, page 366

**Voluntary**

Improvisation

Robert McCormick



## Memorials

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Herbert Stephen Casey and C. Coleman McGehee by Caroline Brandt; James Warner Hofstead by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cabaniss III; and Rebecca Clary Harris by her family.

## Participants

9:00//CELEBRANT: The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; DEACON: The Rev. William S. Stanley; SUBDEACON: Elizabeth Spell; LAY READER: Caroline Farley; PREACHER: The Rev. John D. Rohrs; INTERCESSOR: Anne Pinion; LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER: Bob Dibble; CHALICE BEARERS: Iffet Araniti-Davis, Mary Ball, Wortie Ferrell, Gibboney Huske; ACOLYTES: Charlie Boyle, Lee Driscoll, Tabitha Johnson, Dalton Mika, Amy Phillips; MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Handbell Choir, Paul Honaker, *director*; Members of St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards, *director*; Robert McCormick, *director and organ*; VERGER: Dave Davis

11:15//CELEBRANT: The Rev. William S. Stanley; DEACON: The Rev. Cate Anthony; SUBDEACON: Allison Koschak; LAY READER/INTERCESSOR: Marilyn Kirkpatrick; PREACHER: The Rev. John D. Rohrs; ASSISTING PRIEST: The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; CHALICE BEARERS: Pat Githens, Mary Virginia Scott, Meg Tucker, Audra Tuttle; ACOLYTES: Hayes Carithers, Preston Cochran, Tom Rohrs, Will Rohrs, Julia Hunter Williams; LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR: Marty Easton; MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Handbell Choir, Paul Honaker, *director*; St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards and Robert McCormick, *directors*; Diana Chou and Robert McCormick, *organ*; VERGER: Dave Davis

## Parish Prayer List

Copies of the parish prayer list are available at Information Central outside the parish office and in the narthex (the church vestibule). To ask that a name be added to or removed from the prayer list, please contact Kitty Ball in the office, [kball@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:kball@ststephensRVA.org) or 804.288.2867.