



Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Fifth 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

Welcome

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

Hear, O Israel

Sung by all, standing.

from *Songs of Love*



1. Hear, O Is - ra - el, _____ the Lord your God is one__ Lord.
2. Hear, O Is - ra - el, _____ the Lord your God is one__ Lord.
3. Hear, O Is - ra - el, _____ the Lord your God is one__ Lord.
4. Hear, O Is - ra - el, _____ the Lord your God is one__ Lord.



- You shall love the Lord your God with all__ your heart.
You shall love the Lord your God with all__ your soul.
You shall love the Lord your God with all__ your mind.
You shall love the Lord your God with all__ your strength.



- You shall love the Lord your God with all__ your heart.
You shall love the Lord your God with all__ your soul.
You shall love the Lord your God with all__ your mind.
You shall love the Lord your God with all__ your strength.

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.

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.*

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Ezekiel 37:1-14

Reader A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O LORD God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the LORD God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the LORD God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130

Said responsively by whole verse, seated.

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

2 **If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, ***
O LORD, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.

4 **I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; ***
in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.

6 **O Israel, wait for the LORD, ***
for with the LORD there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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 John 11:1-45

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

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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 who suffer in all places of conflict at home and abroad, including those people and places we name now, silently or aloud: _____.

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

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.
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 b

Offertory Anthem

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills

text: Psalm 121, King James Version
 music: Caleb Burhans

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
 My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.
 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.
 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.
 The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.
 The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.
 The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

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

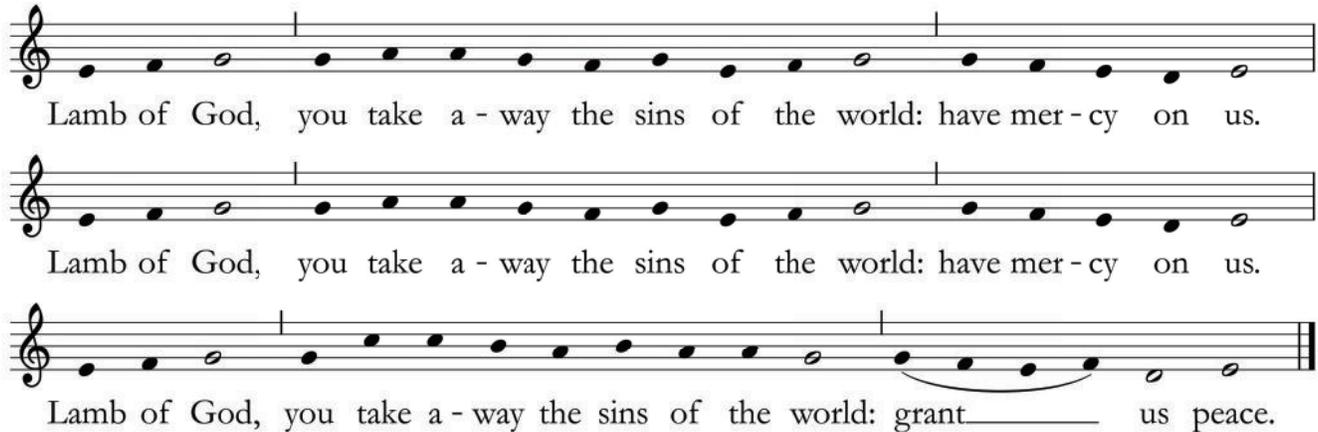
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

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 508 Breathe on me, Breath of God

Sung by all.

Nova Vita

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

MUSICIAN: St. Stephen's Choristers, Robert McCormick, *director*; Cindy Tilghman, *piano*

The Parish Prayer List

Loretta Albertis, Kay Alley, Leilani Allwine, Betsy Anderson, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Sue Atkinson, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Linda Bennett, Christine Boeteger, Emma Bolduc, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Gene Bowles, Sturges Brian, Kathy Brock, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Michael Click, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Tracy Councill, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Debbie Cuseo, Chris Davis, Patricia Delany, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Davis Dunn Dillard, Stephen Drake Sr., Kristen Estes, Jonathan Fava, Debbie Ferguson, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, *David Harrell*, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Anna Hurdle, Alan Jamesieson, John Turner Jenkins, Lena Jones, Justin Jones-Nickerson, Jane Kelly, Dana King, Linda Lewis, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Ross Mackenzie, Barbara Mathison, Adrienne Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Schnucki McCabe, Morgan McCall, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Gertrude McLean, Nancy Meath, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, B. Millner, Tina Millner, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, Susan Moore, Lee W. Mumford, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Sallie Nolte, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Lyn Presson, Alma Price, Brick Quinn, Cary Ragland, Luke Robertson, Jennifer Reed, Aleta Richards, Emery Rivera, Ryan Rohadfox, Kaley Rosenthal, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, Melissa Schick, Bob Schmidt, T. Logan Scott, Todd Shelton, Bette Shiflett, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Regena Stith, Beth Thomas, Bruce Thomas, Margaret Thompson, Brian Trollope, Kenneth Valke, Pam W., Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Suzanne Wallace, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Rick Wortham, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died**, especially *David St. Clare Hutchison*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Ian Hayes and Corinne Torres, Preston and Cate Kendig, and Megan and Tim Watson. **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 *Anglican Church of Korea*. **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, Caroline Finn, 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 Kitty Ball at kball@ststephensRVA.org.

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