



Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
The Liturgy of the Palms and 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.

The Liturgy of the Palms

The Book of Common Prayer, page 270

The congregation will gather outside the main church at the Three Chopt Road entrance.

Celebrant Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

People **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Assist us mercifully with your help, O Lord God of our salvation, that we may enter with joy upon the contemplation of those mighty acts, whereby you have given us life and immortality; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Gospel Matthew 21:1-11

Deacon When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?” The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

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 It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way. Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

People **Hosanna in the highest.**

The Procession

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

People **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn 154 All glory, laud, and honor *Sung by all, repeated as necessary.* *Valet will ich dir geben*

While singing the hymn printed below, the congregation will process into the church in remembrance of Jesus' own procession into Jerusalem. At 9:00, those worshipping in Palmer Hall Chapel will process behind the cross and donkey through the church, back outside, and to Palmer Hall for the rest of their service.

Refrain

**All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King!
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.**

**1 Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's Name comest, the King and Blessed One. Refrain**

**2 The company of angels is praising thee on high;
and we with all creation in chorus make reply. Refrain**

**3 The people of the Hebrews with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers and anthems before thee we present. Refrain**

**4 To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Refrain**

**5 Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. Refrain**

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 and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**



The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Matthew

The congregation may sit.

The congregation should follow along in the Passion Narrative booklet.

*Please make the responses of the congregation and **stand** at the arrival at Golgotha.*

The customary responses before and after the Gospel are omitted.



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

Offertory Music

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.**

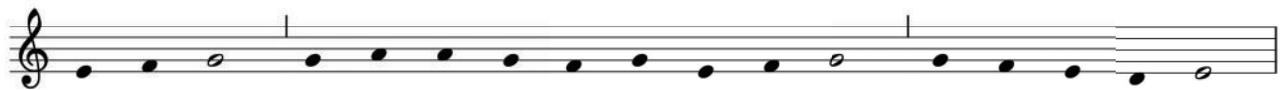
The Breaking of the Bread

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.

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 Solemn Prayer

adapted from St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

Celebrant Do not look forward in fear
to the changes in life;
rather look to them with full hope,
that as they arise, God,
whose very own you are,
will lead you safely through all things;
when you cannot stand it,
God will carry you in arms of love.
Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;
the same everlasting Father
who cared for you today
will take care of you then and every day.
When suffering comes,
God's unfailing strength will be with you;
you are not alone.
So be at peace
and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

Please stand for the silent procession as we enter into the rest of Holy Week.

There is no Dismissal.

Please leave the Passion Narrative in your chairs.



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony

DEACON: The Rev. Abby Kocher

MUSICIAN: Karen Harris, *piano*



Holy Week and Easter at St. Stephen's Church

Services and other offerings for Holy Week and Easter Day include the Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday, and an Easter egg hunt following the 9 a.m. services on Easter Day. Details are available in the **Spirit**—the printed newsletter inside this bulletin—and on our website. Scan the QR code or visit ststephensRVA.org/holy-week-and-easter.



The Parish Prayer List

Loretta Albertis, Kay Alley, Leilani Allwine, 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 Jameson, John Turner Jenkins, Lena Jones, Justin Jones-Nickerson, Jane Kelly, 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, *Shelby Nichols*, 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, Jamey Price, *Julia Putney-Brandt*, Brick Quinn, Cary Ragland, Luke Robertson, Jennifer Reed, Aleta Richards, Emery Rivera, Ryan Rohadfox, 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, *J. Morgan Wright*, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life**, especially for the installation of the Most Reverend and Right Honorable Sarah E. Mullally as 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. **For those who have died**, especially Dr. Jen Domer, Dana King, John Franklyn Newsom III, Mack Ruffin III, and Todd Shelton. **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 Melanesia*. **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.

To add or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact Kitty Ball in the parish office, kball@ststephensRVA.org.

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