



# Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Second Sunday of Easter

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

Open my eyes, Lord

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Songs of Love*



- 1. O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.
- 2. O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
- 3. O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.



- O - pen my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.\_\_\_\_\_
- O - pen my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.\_\_\_\_\_
- O - pen my heart, Lord. Help me to love.\_\_\_\_\_

## Opening Acclamation

Deacon Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Deacon Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

People **God's faithful love endures forever.**

## The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 224

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson** Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*Reader* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

'I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

'He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.'

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 16** *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 599

1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; \*  
I have said to the LORD, "You are my LORD,  
my good above all other."

**2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, \*  
upon those who are noble among the people.**

3 But those who run after other gods \*  
shall have their troubles multiplied.

**4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, \*  
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**

5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; \*  
it is you who uphold my lot.

**6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; \*  
my heart teaches me, night after night.

**8 I have set the LORD always before me; \*  
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.**

9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
my body also shall rest in hope.

**10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, \*  
nor let your holy one see the Pit.**

11 You will show me the path of life; \*  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

**The Gospel Song** Celtic Alleluia Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
*Sung twice by all, standing, before and after the Gospel.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**The Gospel** John 20:19-31  
**Reader** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**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 as you are able.*

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

*Deacon*              In the work we do this day,  
*People*                **May the risen Christ teach us.**

*Deacon*              In the challenges we face this day,  
*People*                **May the risen Christ guide us.**

*Deacon*              Through the people we meet this day,  
*People*                **May the risen Christ renew us.**

*Deacon*              As we respond to the hungers and hurts of this world, especially to those who suffer in all places  
of conflict, at home and abroad,  
*People*                **May the risen Christ compel us.**

*Deacon*              We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world,  
*People*                **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

*Deacon*              We remember all who have died, [especially \_\_\_\_\_].  
*During the silence, members of the congregation may pray for others.*

*Deacon*              Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*People*                **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*Deacon*              Let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others, [especially \_\_\_\_\_].

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*Celebrant*            Grant us, O God, so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with Christ in the joy of his  
resurrection. **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 STSTEPHENSVA to  
73256), or in the offering plates as they come by.*



**Offertory Music**

**At the Presentation**

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise him, all crea-tures here be -  
 low. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a - bove, ye heav-'nly  
 host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. O praise him; O  
 praise him; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*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** Eucharistic Prayer B

Prayer Book, page 367

*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 God thanks and praise.**
- Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, 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.*

*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 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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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 his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

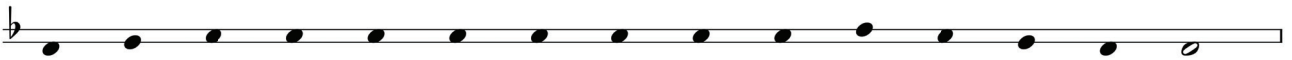
**and the power, and the glory,**


**for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Mason Martens, S-152

Cantor   
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

All   
There-fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

## 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 **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 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 209**    We walk by faith, and not by sight

*Sung by all.*

*St. Botolph*

## Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

*Deacon*    Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People*    **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Postlude



## Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John Rohrs

DEACON: The Rev. Abby Kocher

MUSICIAN: Judy Fiske, *piano*

## The Parish Prayer List

Loretta Albertis, 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, Ashley Loughan, 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, 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, Aaron Spicer, Margie Spicer, 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 births of *Charles Joseph Baker V to Ellie and Charlie Baker and Lucy Dollings Barrett to Grace and Richard Barrett, Jr.* **For those who have died**, especially *Robley D. Bates and Phillip McLaughlin.* **For those expecting a child**, especially 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 *Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola.* **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](mailto:kball@ststephensRVA.org).*

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