



# Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☩ Richmond, Virginia

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## 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.

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## Prelude

## Welcome

## The Word of God

### Opening Hymn

Be still and know

*Sung by all, standing, several times.*

*Be still and know*

Be still\_ and know that I\_ am God. Be still\_ and know that  
I\_ am God. Be still\_ and know\_ that I\_ am God.

### 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 225

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

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

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson** 1 Peter 2:2-10

*Reader* A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,” and  
“A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## **Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16**

*Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 622

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

**2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.**

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

**4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.**

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.

**15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.

**The Gospel Song**

The Lord is my shepherd

*Sing with Joy*

*Sung by all, standing, before and after the Gospel.*

The Lord is my— shep-herd, I'll walk with him al - ways. He knows me and he  
loves me, I'll walk with him al - ways. Al - ways, al - ways, I'll  
walk with him al - ways. Al - ways, al - ways, I'll walk with him al - ways.

**The Gospel**

John 14:1-14

Reader

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

People

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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 Anthem

Feed my lambs

text and music: Natalie Sleeth

Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, over all a vigil keep;  
In my name lead them forth gently as a shepherd.  
When they wander, when they stray, their protector be.  
As ye do unto my flock, thus ye do to me.

Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, over all a vigil keep;  
In my name lead them forth gently as a shepherd.  
Unto all who lose the way, hope and comfort be,  
As ye do unto my flock, thus ye do to me.

Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, over all a vigil keep;  
In my name lead them forth gently, gently  
As a loving shepherd of the Lord.

**At the Presentation***Sung by all, standing.**Lasst uns erfreuen*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures 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 362, vs 1, 3, 4**

Holy, holy, holy!

*Sung by all.*

*Nicaea*

## 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. Cate Anthony

DEACON: The Rev. Abby Kocher

MUSICIAN: St. Stephen's Choristers, Diana Chou, *director*; Karen Harris, *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, 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 *the marriage of Grace Landolt and Gregory Castle*. **For those who have died**, especially *Mary Gibbs Lane, the Rev. Dr. Ross Mackenzie, and Thomas Logan Scott*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Coleman and Jessica Stewart, 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 *Church of North India (United)*. **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 and Caroline Finn.

*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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