



The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 5, 2026 at 10:00 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 a "soft space" is available in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, one of the two side chapels in the church. It allows children and parents to participate in the service if and when they need more room than a church pew provides. Children must be accompanied by a parent while using the soft space. 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 *Diptych for Organ: I. Prayer*

Brenda Portman

The Word of God

Hymn 718 God of our fathers

National Hymn

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, standing.

The Hymnal S-236, John Rutter

1. Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa-ters; you are wor-thy of
 praise; glo-ry to you. 2. Glo-ry to you for the ra-di-ance of your ho-ly Name;
 we will praise you and high-ly ex - alt you for ev - er. 3. Glo-ry to you
 in the splen-dor of your tem-ple; on the throne of your ma-jes-ty, glo-ry to you.
 4. Glo-ry to you, seat-ed be-tween the Cher - u - bim; we will praise you and high-ly ex -
 alt you for ev-er. 5. Glo-ry to you, be-hold-ing the depths; in the high vault of



alt you for ev-er. 5. Glo-ry to you, be-holding the depths; in the high vault of
 hea-ven, glo-ry to you. 6. Glo-ry to you, Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit;
 we will praise you and high-ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 230

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for the Nation

Prayer Book, page 258

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 *Please sit.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.' I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.' Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milch bore to him.' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left." And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*

Psalm 45: 11-18 *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 648

11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.

**12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honor.**

13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favor."

**14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.**

15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.

**16 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the palace of the king.**

17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.

**18 I will make your name to be remembered
from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."**

Silence is kept.

Hymn 302 Father, we thank thee who hast planted *Sung by all, standing.*

Rendez à Dieu

The Gospel Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 *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 to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon The Rev. William S. Stanley

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.**

**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 Virgin Mary,
 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.

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

Prayer Book, page 388

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. We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, [especially ____].
- Celebrant* Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, remembering especially those who suffer in all places of conflict, at home and abroad; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.
- Celebrant* Lord, in your mercy
People **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* We commend to your mercy all who have died, [especially _____] 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* Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **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 *Please stand.*

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. 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 STSTEPHENSVA to 73256.



At the Offertory *Steal away* *Sung by the choir.* trad. Spiritual, arr. Michael Simpson

Refrain: Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus! Steal away, steal away home, I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder;
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here. *Refrain*

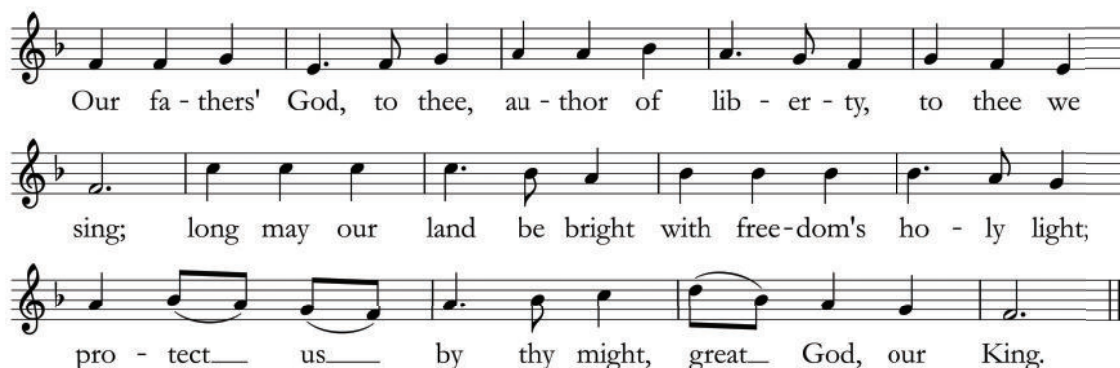
Green trees a-bending, poor sinners stand a-trembling;
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here. *Refrain*

My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the lightning;
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here. *Refrain*

At the Presentation **Hymn 717, v. 4** *Sung by all, standing.*

America

The fruits of our labor are presented to God, along with gifts for our food ministry.



Our fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of lib - er - ty, to thee we
sing; long may our land be bright with free - dom's ho - ly light;
pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our King.

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer C, *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 God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word, born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law, opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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.

You may stand or kneel.

Celebrant

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People

We celebrate Christ's death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior. Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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-152, Mason Martens

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.

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 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 Teach me, O Lord *Sung by the choir.* Text: Psalm 119:33; music: Thomas Attwood
Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end.

Hymn 644 How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds

Sung by all, seated.

St. Peter

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 **Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

Prayer Book, page 366

**And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.**

**To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Blessing *The Celebrant pronounces God's blessing.*

Hymn 719 O beautiful for spacious skies

Sung by all, standing.

Materna

Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary Oh, Freedom

trad. spiritual, arr. Adolphus Hailstork



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins; **DEACON:** The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **SUBDEACON:** Bob Dibble; **READER:** Stephanie Peramas; **PREACHER:** The Rev. William S. Stanley; **INTERCESSOR:** Sharon Machrone; **LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Allison Koschak, Kim Spensieri; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Howard Anderson, Iffet Araniti-Davis, Dave Davis, Clarice Dibble; **ACOLYTE:** Henry Mulholland; **LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR:** Marty Easton; **MUSICIANS:** St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards, *director*; Diana Chou, *organist*; **VERGER:** Kathy Brock

Parish Prayer List

Copies of the parish prayer list are available at Information Central outside the parish office and in 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** or 804.288.2867.

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