



The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 5, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist: Rite One

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☩ Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are so glad you are here. This service of Holy Eucharist follows the order found in the Book of Common Prayer (the red book in the pew rack) beginning on page 323. This bulletin provides page numbers and other information to guide you.

A "soft space" is available in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, one of the two side chapels in the church, during the summer, so that children and parents can continue 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 will guide you.

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation *Please stand as you are able.* The Book of Common Prayer, page 323

The Collect for Purity page 323

The Summary of the Law page 324

Kyrie, Trisagion or Gloria page 324

The Collect of the Day *Found on page 3.*

A Collect for the Nation *Found on page 3.*

The First Lesson *Found on page 3; please sit.*

The Psalm *Found on page 3; please remain seated and read responsively.*

The Gospel *Found on page 3-4; please stand.*

The Sermon *Please sit.*

The Nicene Creed *Please stand.* page 326

The Prayers of the People *Please kneel as you are able.* pages 328-330

The Confession of Sin page 330

The Peace *Please stand.* page 332

Welcome and Announcements

Please sit.

At the Presentation of Alms

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts to sustain God's work in the world. If you wish to make your offering electronically, please scan the QR code or text STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.



*All things come of thee, O Lord.
And of thine own have we given thee.*

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand.*

pages 340-343

Please kneel after the Sanctus.

The Lord's Prayer

page 336

The Breaking of the Bread

page 337

The Prayer of Humble Access

page 337

The Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the Communion rail in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and you may stand or kneel to receive. 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" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use the smaller cup. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms against your chest. If you need us to bring the sacrament to you, please let the usher know.

The Post-Communion Prayer

page 339

The Blessing and Dismissal

page 339-340

The Collect and Readings

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The Collect of the Day

The Book of Common Prayer, page 179

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

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 Milcah 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.*

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.”**

The Gospel Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 *Please stand and face the reader of the Gospel.*

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Participants

CELEBRANT AND PREACHER: The Rev. William S. Stanley; READER AND CHALICE BEARER: Andy Luke

The Parish Prayer List

Copies of the parish prayer list are available in the narthex (the church vestibule inside the Three Chopt Road entrance) and at Information Central, just outside the parish office.