



The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 26, 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 Prelude on *Hanover*

Stanley Vann

The Word of God

Hymn 388 O worship the King

Hanover

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

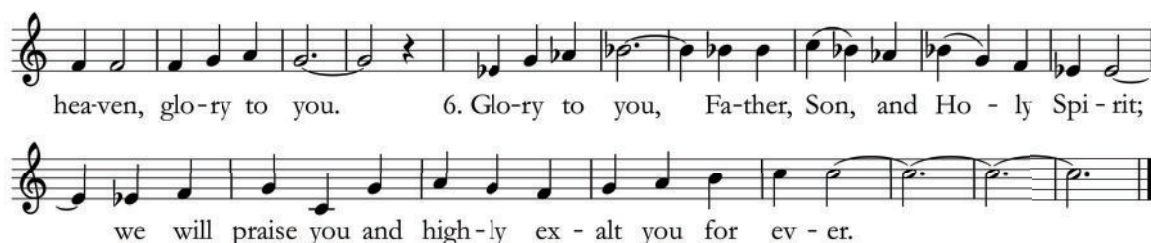
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise

Sung by all, standing.

The Hymnal S-236, John Rutter

1. Glo-ry to you, Lord God of our fa-thers; 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



The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 231

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; 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 29:15-28 *Please sit.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*

Psalms 105:1-11, 45b *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 783

1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; *
make known his deeds among the peoples.

2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, *
and speak of all his marvelous works.

3 Glory in his holy Name; *
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

4 Search for the LORD and his strength; *
continually seek his face.

5 Remember the marvels he has done, *
his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,

6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, *
O children of Jacob his chosen.

7 He is the LORD our God; *
his judgments prevail in all the world.

8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, *
the promise he made for a thousand generations:

9 The covenant he made with Abraham, *
the oath that he swore to Isaac,

10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, *
an everlasting covenant for Israel,

11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan *
to be your allotted inheritance."

45b Hallelujah!

Silence is kept.

Hymn 635 If thou but trust in God to guide thee *Sung by all, standing.* *Wer nur den lieben Gott*

The Gospel Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 *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 put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon The Rev. Penny A. Nash

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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.



At the Offertory O for a closer walk with God *Sung by the choir.* text: William Cowper; music: *Caithness*,
arr. Charles Villiers Stanford

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame; a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!
Return, O holy dove, return, sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.
So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing.

Old 100th

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



The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 2

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

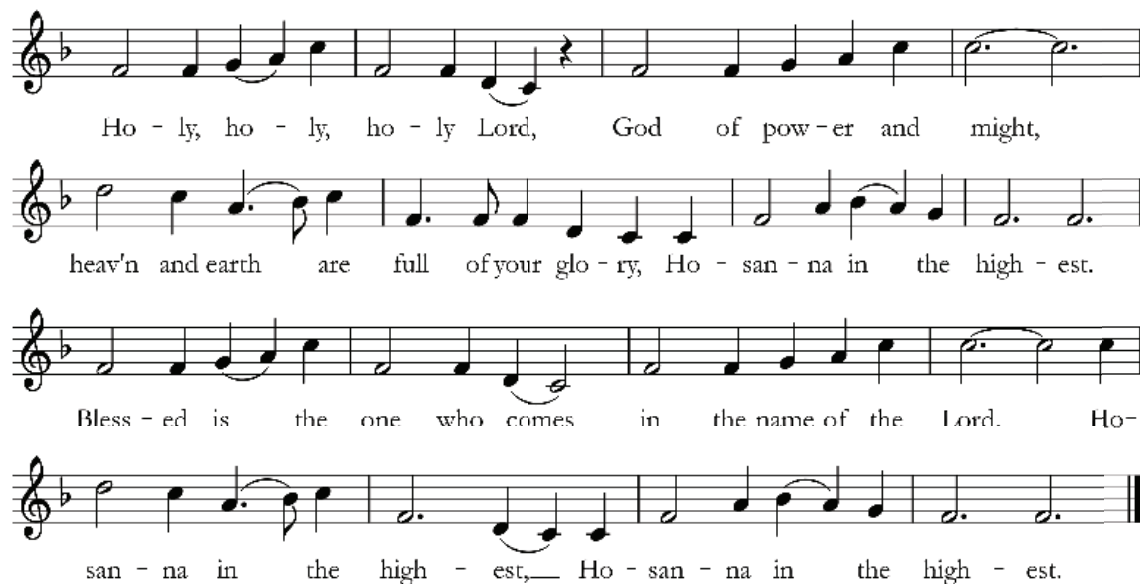
We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

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

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts

that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Blessed Stephen; Blessed Mary, Mother of God; and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

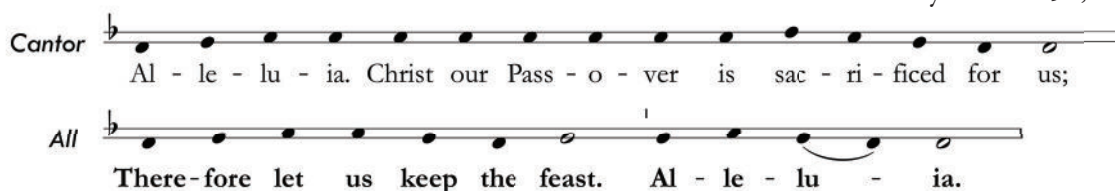
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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



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 *Oculi omnium* Sung by the choir.

Text: Psalm 34:8; music: Charles Wood

*Oculi omnium in te sperant Domine
et tu das escam illorum in tempore opportuno.
Gloria tibi Domine. Amen.*

Translation: The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord,
and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Glory to thee, O Lord. Amen.

Hymn 677 God moves in a mysterious way

Sung by all, seated.

London New

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.**

All Let us pray. *You may stand or kneel.*

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.

Hymn 694 God of grace and God of glory *Sung by all, standing.*

Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary God of grace (Chorale Prelude on *Cwm Rhondda*)

Paul Manz



Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Helen Noell Branch, J. Read Branch, and Grace Branch Moore by their family; and in honor of Bob and Clarice Dibble on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary by Ken and Sherlyn Dibble.

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **DEACON:** The Rev. William S. Stanley; **SUBDEACON:** Pat Githens; **READER:** Sharon Machrone; **PREACHER:** The Rev. Penny A. Nash; **INTERCESSOR:** Mary Martin; **ASSISTING PRIEST:** The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins; Lay Eucharistic Minister: Kim Spensieri; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Iffet Araniti-Davis, Wortie Ferrell, Andy Luke, Elizabeth Spell; **ACOLYTES:** Rosie Ferrell, Alice Kidd, Abigail Moore; **LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR:** Clarice Dibble; **MUSICIANS:** St. Stephen's Choir, Robert McCormick, *director*; Diana Chou and Robert McCormick, *organists*; **VERGER:** Dave Davis

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.