



The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 16, 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

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele, BWV 654

Johann Sebastian Bach

The Word of God

Hymn 470

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Beecher

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

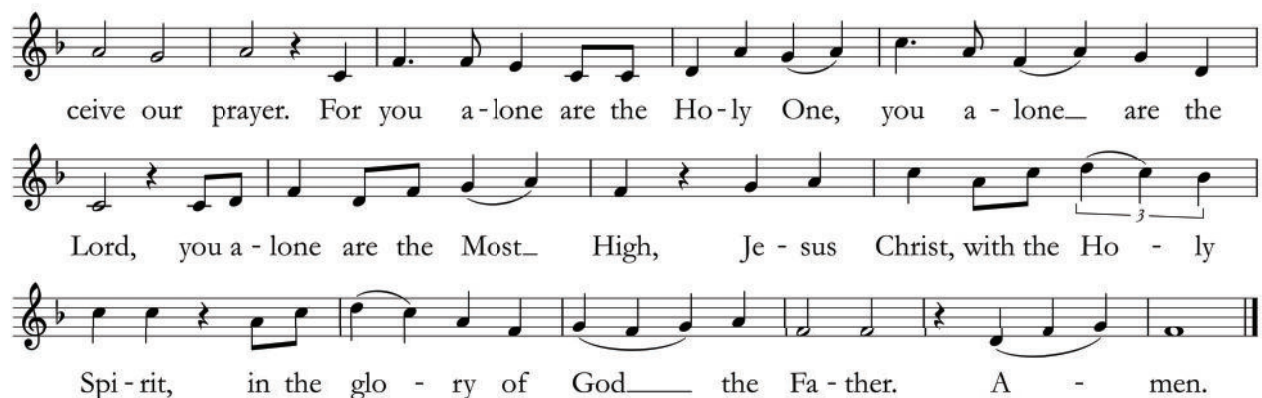
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria in excelsis

Sung by all, standing.

The Hymnal S-280, Robert Powell

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his people on
earth. Lord God, heavenly King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we worship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the
Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -



The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 233

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lesson Genesis 45:1-15 *Please sit.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 133 *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 787

1 Oh, how good and pleasant it is, *
when brethren live together in unity!

2 **It is like fine oil upon the head ***
that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, *
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**4 It is like the dew of Hermon *
that falls upon the hills of Zion.**

5 For there the LORD has ordained the blessing: *
life for evermore.

Silence is kept.

Hymn 538 God of mercy, God of grace

Sung by all, standing.

Lucerna Laudoniae

The Gospel Matthew 15:10-28 *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 called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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.**

Celebrant In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

You may stand or kneel and pray responsively.

Leader For all people in their daily life and work;

People **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader For this community, the nation, and the world;

People **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader For the just and proper use of your creation;

People **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader For all bishops and other ministers;

People **For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, [especially _____].

The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.

Leader Hear us, Lord;

People **For your mercy is great.**

Leader We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life, [especially _____].

The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;

People **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader We pray for all who have died, [especially _____], that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The People may add their own petitions either silently or aloud.

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People **Who put their trust in you.**

Celebrant We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept.*

People **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 *Ave, verum corpus*

Sung by the choir.

W. A. Mozart

*Ave, verum corpus natum de Maria Virgine:
vere passum, immolatum
in cruce pro homine:
cuius latus perforatum fluxit aqua et sanguine:
esto nobis praegustatum, in mortis examine.*

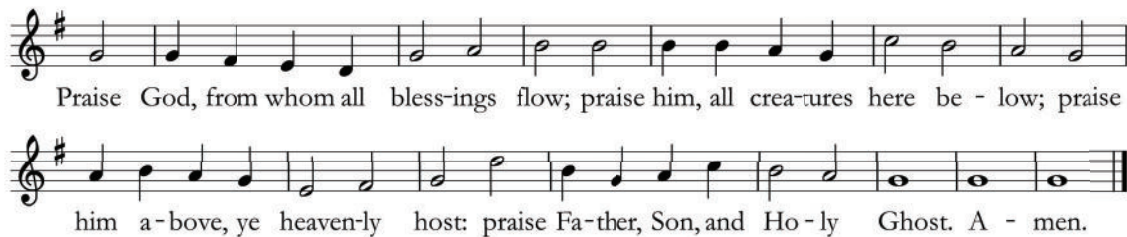
Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary:
You who truly suffered and were sacrificed
on the cross for the sake of man.
From whose pierced flank flowed water and blood:
Be a foretaste for us in the trial of death.

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.

The Hymnal S-129, Robert Powell



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-163, Robert Powell

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God'. Each staff is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff ends with a double bar line. The second staff ends with a double bar line. The third staff ends with a double bar line.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mercy on_ us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on_ us.

Lamb of God,____ you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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

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 A Gaelic Blessing *Sung by the choir.* text: William Sharp; music: John Rutter
Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you.

Hymn 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness *Sung by all, seated.* *Schmücke dich*

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 **Lord Jesus Christ,**
 you have put your life into our hands;
 now we put our lives into yours.
 Take us, renew us and remake us.
 What we have been is past;
 what we shall be, through you, still awaits us.
 Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

The Blessing The Celebrant pronounces God's blessing.

Hymn 539 O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling *Sung by all, standing.* *Tidings*

Dismissal Prayer Book, page 366

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary Improvisation Robert McCormick

Anyone wishing to listen more closely to the organ voluntary is welcome to move to the chancel and sit in the choir chairs.



Memorials

The flowers are given in to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. James Dunn Mason, Sr., Dr. and Mrs. James Dunn Mason, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Hamilton Mason by Sarah Mason Ayers; of John H. Beebe, Jr. and William H. Beebe by their family; and of Alma Baker Downes and Vachel Augustine Downes by Fern Downes Newsom and family.

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; DEACON: The Rev. William S. Stanley; SUBDEACON: Blair Nelsen; READER: Gayle Royals; PREACHER: The Rev. Penny A. Nash; INTERCESSOR: Scott Green; LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER: Barbara Massey; CHALICE BEARERS: Kathy Brock, Beth Crews, Pat Githens, Meg Tucker; ACOLYTES: Cam Cross, Wyatt Hobbs, Henry Mulholland; LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR: Earl Roney; MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards, *director*; Diana Chou and Robert McCormick, *organists*; VERGER: Ben Emerson

The Parish Prayer List

Loretta Albertis, Kay Alley, Leilani Allwine, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Elizabeth Bannerman, Ben Barbot, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Linda Bennett, Christine Boeteger, Emma Bolduc, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Sturges Brian, Kathy Brock, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Frances Caldwell, 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, Shirley Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Debbie Cuseo, Chris Davis, Patricia Delany, Ham DeRosa, Davis Dunn Dillard, Stephen Drake Sr., Reid Ebert, Kristen Estes, Jonathan Fava, Debbie Ferguson, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, David Harrell, Emma Hassmer, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Ron Hunt, Anna Hurdle, Ginny Moncure Jamerson, Alan Jameson, John Turner Jenkins, Charles Johnson, Lena Jones, David Kean, Jane Kelly, Linda Lewis, Eva Lindsay, Ashley Loughan, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Frank Maloney, Barbara Mathison, Adrienne Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Morgan McCall, Gertrude McLean, Nancy Meath, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, Tina Millner, Susan Minyard, Lee W. Mumford, Shelby Nichols, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Sallie Nolte, Pauline O'Neill, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ivan Peramas, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Lyn Presson, Alma Price, Jamey Price, Julia Putney-Brandt, Brick Quinn, Jennifer Reed, Luke Robertson, Kaley Rosenthal, Aleta Richards, Emily Robinson, Ryan Rohadfox, David Ruffin and family, Bette Shiflett, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Aaron Spicer, Margie Spicer, Regena Stith, Beth Thomas, Bruce Thomas, Margaret Thompson, Brian Trollope, Crystal Vines, Pam W., Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Heather Walker, Suzanne Wallace, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Steve Wilson, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Rick Wortham, Bill Wright, J. Morgan Wright, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died** especially *the Right Rev. Bob Gordon Jones*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Kristen and Hayden Glasstetter, Mason and Claire Mairead, Carlee and Robert Rhoton, 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 in Wales*. **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**: Col. Matthew Bryce Dibble, USAF, 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. To ask that someone remain on the list for more or less time, please call the office or email Kitty Ball, kball@ststephensRVA.org.

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