



# Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
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*



## Opening Prayer

**Leader**      This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**People**      **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 234

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

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

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Reading Exodus 16:2-15

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Exodus.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

## The Gospel Song Celtic Alleluia

*Sing with Joy*

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



**The Gospel**      Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**Reader**      The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Wondering**      The Rev. Cate Anthony

*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.*

**Leader**      Today we will each use a hand to guide us through our prayers. Hold your hands together and take a deep breath, becoming aware of God's presence here.

**Leader**      The thumb is closest to our heart. As we hold our thumbs, we remember what we hold closest to our hearts. We pray for our family, friends, and neighbors. We also rejoice in the good things that have happened this week, [especially \_\_\_\_\_].

**Leader**      We sometimes call our index finger our "pointer." As we hold our index fingers, we direct our prayers toward situations of great need. We pray for those who suffer in all places of conflict at home and abroad, including those people and places we name now, silently or aloud: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Leader**      Our tallest finger is also our strongest. As we hold our tallest fingers, we remember those who hold power in this world. We pray they will have the strength to seek justice and truth.

**Leader**      Our ring finger is our most fragile finger. As we hold our ring fingers, we think of those who find themselves in the most fragile moments of life. We pray especially for those who are sick and lonely. We remember also those who have died, [especially \_\_\_\_\_], and all those who grieve.

**Leader**      Our pinky is our smallest finger. As we hold our pinkies, we remember ourselves before God. We pray that God will grant us what we need, give us hearts to love and serve, and shield our joy.

**Leader**      Finally, we join our hands together, offering our prayers to God. Lord God, you promise to hear us when we pray. Draw close to us as we lift up our hearts to you, in the name of your son Jesus Christ. **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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256), or in the offering plates as they come by.*

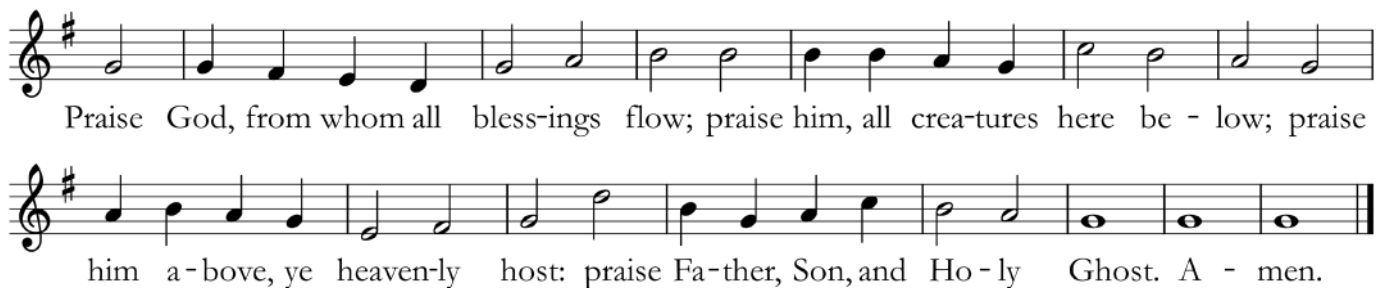


### Offertory Music

#### At the Presentation

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Old 100th*



*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

Common Worship, Prayer 2

**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.

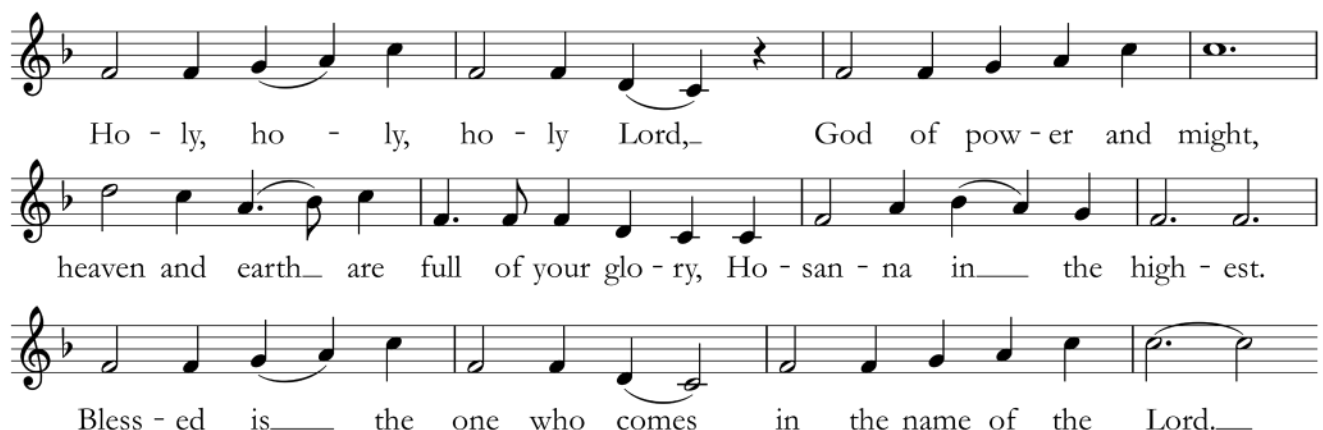
**People** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

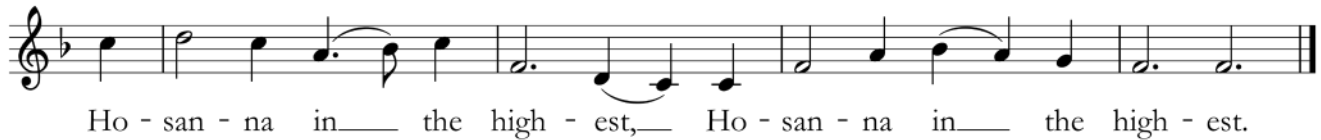
**Celebrant** Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:  
And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

### Sanctus

*Sung by all.*

*Land of Rest*





### *Celebrant*

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Savior.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with blessed Stephen, Mary, Mother of God, and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

*Celebrant and People*

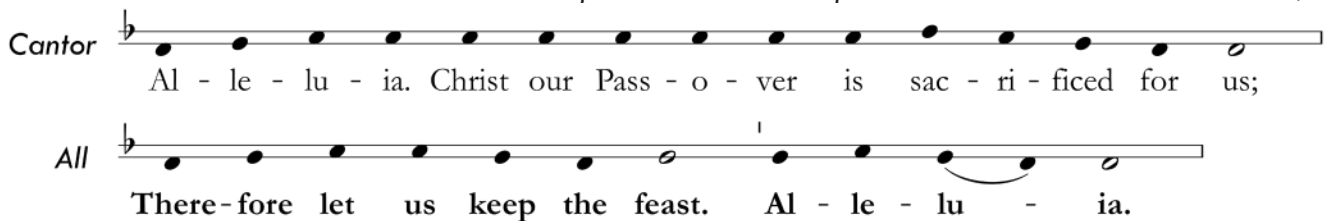
Prayer Book, page 364

**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



### **The Invitation**

*Celebrant*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## 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 **Loving God, we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**The Blessing Song** Go now in peace  
Go now in peace, go now in peace.  
May the love of God surround you,  
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

*Sung by all, standing.*

Natalie Sleeth

**Hymn 376** Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

*Sung by all.*

*Hymn to Joy*



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, bloom-ing mea-dow, flash-ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di-vine.

## Dismissal

Prayer Book, page 366

Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
People **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

## Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John Rohrs

DEACON: The Rev. Cate Anthony

MUSICIAN: Judy Fiske, *piano*



## Reflection Questions

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable about a landowner and the people who worked on his land. Parables are stories Jesus used to teach about God's kingdom. In the parable, the landowner paid all workers equally, even those who worked for less time than others. The story reminds us that God blesses each of us, regardless of how long we have been practicing our faith.

Here are some questions for further discussion with your family:

- Have you ever been in a situation where being generous and including everyone felt unfair to some?
- What happens when people compare themselves to one another?
- Everyone belongs in God's kingdom. How can you live like you are in God's kingdom now?

## 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, Kathy Brock, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Frances Caldwell, *John Caperton*, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Michael Click, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, Shirley Crim, Lake Curry, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Debbie Cuseo, Chris Davis, Rhonda Davis, Patricia Delany, Ham DeRosa, Davis Dunn Dillard, Stephen Drake Sr., Reid Ebert, Kristen Estes, Jonathan Fava, Debbie Ferguson, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Vishal Iab Gunti, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, David Harrell, Emma Hassmer, Katie Hellebush, Trey Harrington, Dan Hill, Ron Hunt, Anna Hurdle, Ginny Moncure Jamerson, Alan Jameson, John Turner Jenkins, Charles Johnson, Charleigh Jones, Lena Jones, David Kean, Jane Kelly, Brian Kemp, 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, *Justin Jones 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, Susan Porter, 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, Ross Southward, 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, Judy Ward, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Steve Wilson, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Bill Wright, J. Morgan Wright, Margaret P. Young.

**For those who have died**, especially *Jean Lane*. **For the blessings of this life**, especially *the baptisms of Lucas McKinley Allocca, Elizabeth Anne Clites, Campbell Thomas Flynn, Harrison Cole Hooe, and Edward Clifton Rider, the marriage of Callie Fleet and Jackson Southworth, and the birth of Harriet Elizabeth Watson to Tim and Megan Watson*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Kristen and Hayden Glasstetter, Mason and Claire Mairead, Carlee and Robert Rhoton, and Coleman and Jessica Stewart. **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 Diocese of Bor – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*. **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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