



The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 27, 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 through the service.

The Word of God

Opening Acclamation	<i>Please stand as you are able.</i>	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	<i>Found on page 3.</i>	
The First Lesson	<i>Found on page 3; please sit.</i>	
The Psalm	<i>Found on page 3; please remain seated and read responsively.</i>	
The Gospel	<i>Found on page 3-4; please stand.</i>	
The Sermon	<i>Please sit.</i>	
The Nicene Creed	<i>Please stand.</i>	page 326
The Prayers of the People	<i>Please kneel as you are able.</i>	pages 328-330
The Confession of Sin		page 330
The Peace	<i>Please stand.</i>	page 332
Welcome and Announcements	<i>Please sit.</i>	

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 182

O God, who declarest thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant unto us such a measure of thy grace, that we, running to obtain thy promises, may be made partakers of thy heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lesson Exodus 16:2-15 *Please sit.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 695

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.

14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.

15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers. *Silence is kept.*

The Gospel Matthew 21:23-32 *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.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Memorial

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jeffrey Forbes Meadows by his family.

Participants

CELEBRANT AND PREACHER: The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; **READER AND CHALICE BEARER:** Tony Anthony

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.