



The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 11:15 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 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 *Forest Green*

Richard Purvis

The Word of God

Hymn 400 All creatures of our God and King

Lasst uns erfreuen

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.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

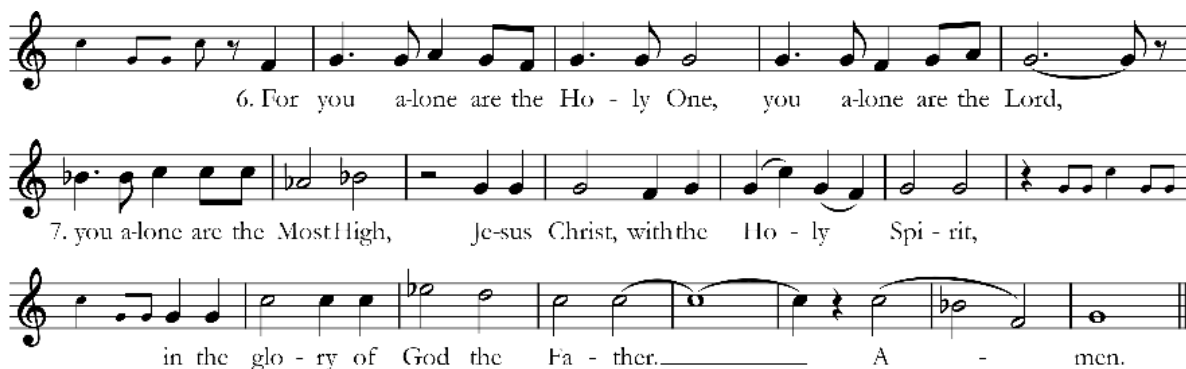
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria in excelsis

Sung by all, standing.

The Hymnal S-278, William Mathias

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-might-y God and
Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
3. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; 5. you are seat-ed at the
right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of you, delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading Job 39:1-18 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Book of Job.

"Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfill, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling-place? It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing. Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labour to it? Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing-floor? The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear; because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 121 *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

The Book of Common Prayer, page 779

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *

from where is my help to come?

2 **My help comes from the LORD, ***

the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved *

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ***

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The LORD himself watches over you; *

the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

6 **So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ***

nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

A period of silence is kept.

The Second Reading Acts 4:32-35, 5:1-11

Reader A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!" Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him.

After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price." And she said, "Yes, that was the price." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

Hymn 405 All things bright and beautiful *Sung by all, standing.*

Royal Oak

The Gospel Luke 12:13-21 *Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon The Rev. John D. Rohrs

The Nicene Creed *Said by all, standing.*

The Book of Common Prayer, 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

Celebrant Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the world, now and always.

You may stand or kneel. During the silence after each bidding, the people offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

- Leader* Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.
- Leader* God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed. We remember especially those who suffer in all places of conflict, at home and abroad.
- Leader* God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.
- Leader* God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings, [especially _____].
- Leader* God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Comforter of all the earth, sustain your people, especially the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help.
- Leader* God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died,
[especially _____].

Leader God, Giver of life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Eternal God, the light of all who know you, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us speak when many keep silent, help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference. Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of 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.*

The Book of Common Prayer, 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 Prayer attributed to St. Francis *Sung by the choir.*

Kola Owolabi

For text, see the The Book of Common Prayer, page 833.

At the Presentation *Sung by all, standing as able.*

Nun danket alle Gott

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



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 God thanks and praise.**

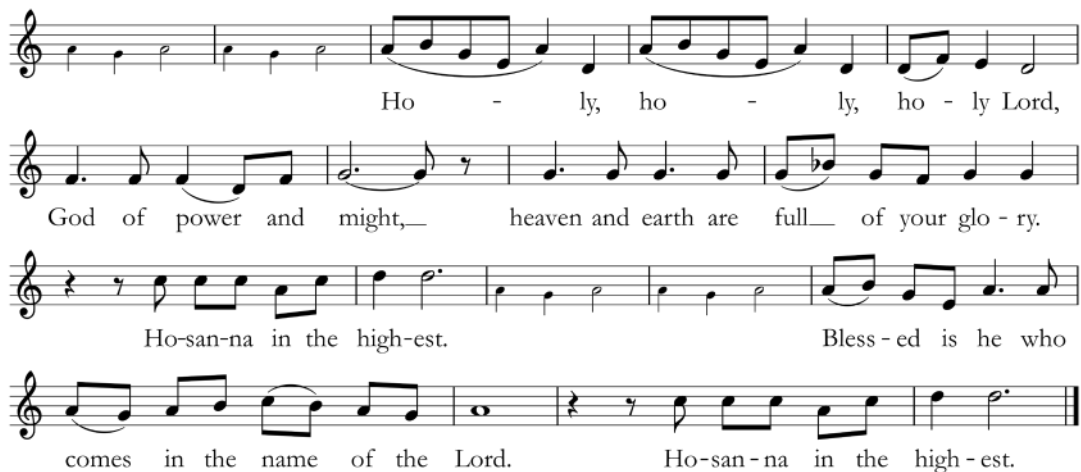
Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *Here a proper preface is said.*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

The Hymnal S-128, William Mathias



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

You may stand or kneel.

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Stephen; Blessed Mary, Mother of God; and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for 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.*

This antiphon will be sung by the cantor, then by all, and repeated after each verse. The Hymnal S-171, Mason Martens



- Cantor:** 1. The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. *Antiphon*
2. One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. *Antiphon*

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 *Ave verum corpus
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.*

Sung by the choir.

June Nixon

Translation:

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.

Hymn 9 Not here for high and holy things

Sung by all, seated.

Morning Song

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 **Eternal God, heavenly Father,**
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 365

The Blessing *The Celebrant pronounces God's blessing.*

Hymn 398 I sing the almighty power of God

Sung by all, standing.

Forest Green

Dismissal

The Book of Common Prayer, page 366

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary *Sortie fuguée*

Pierre Kunc

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 to the glory of God and in memory of William Penn Stanley by his family and John Wortham Christian, III, by his family.

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony; **DEACON:** The Rev. John W.A. Jenkins; **SUBDEACON:** Bob Dibble; **READERS:** Anne Pinion, Audra Tuttle; **PREACHER:** The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **ASSISTING CLERGY:** The Rev. William S. Stanley; **INTERCESSOR:** Sarah Bartenstein; **LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER:** Iffet Araniti-Davis; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Clarice Dibble, Bill Gray, Evan-Nilsa Karlson, Mary Virginia Scott; **ACOLYTES:** Thomas Bowen-Rees, Charlie Boyle, Tabitha Johnson, Sadie Kidd, Amy Phillips; **LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR:** Earl Roney; **MUSICIANS:** Members of St. Stephen's Choir, Diana Chou, Chris Edwards, and Robert McCormick; **VERGER:** Andy Luke

The 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.

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