The Feast of St. Stephen (observed)

Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 9 a.m. and 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 Very slowly (from *Sonatina for Organ*) Leo Sowerby

The Word of God

Hymn 657 Love divine, all loves excelling *Hyfrydol*

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.

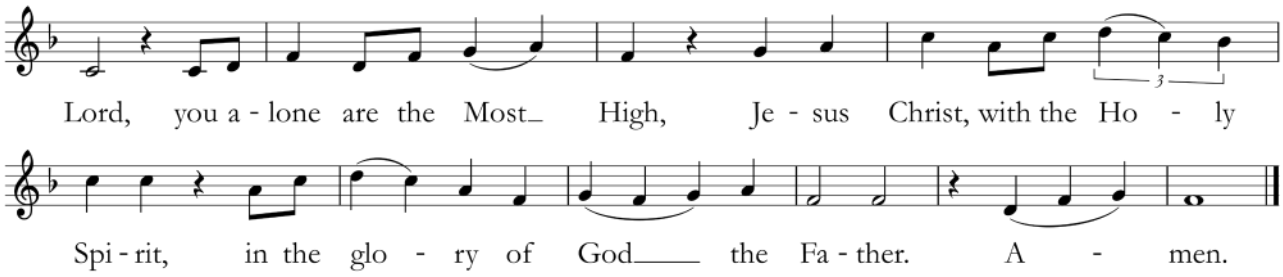
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.* The Hymnal, S-280, Robert Powell





The Collect of the Day The Book of Common Prayer, page 237

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray. *A period of silence is kept.*

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Heroic Service: a Prayer for Veterans Day The Book of Common Prayer, page 839

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Acts 6:1-7 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.** *A period of silence is kept.*

Psalm 31:1-5 *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.* The Book of Common Prayer, page 622

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth. *A period of silence is kept.*

At 11:15 a.m. only

The Second Lesson Acts 6:8-7:2a,51c-60

Reader A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?"

And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. You are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

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

Hymn 508 Breathe on me, Breath of God *Sung by all, standing.* *Nova Vita*

The Gospel Luke 4:14-21 *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.**

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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, Form III The Book of Common Prayer, page 387

Celebrant Let us pray for the Church and the world.

You may stand or kneel. The Leader and the People pray responsively.

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, that we may overcome divisions and seek the common good;
People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader We pray for those who have died [especially _____]. Give to the departed eternal rest.
People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader [We pray/give thanks for _____.] Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 STSTEPHENSRVA to 73256.

At the Offertory Beyond all praising (*Thaxted*) arr. Hart Morris

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 Great Thanksgiving Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

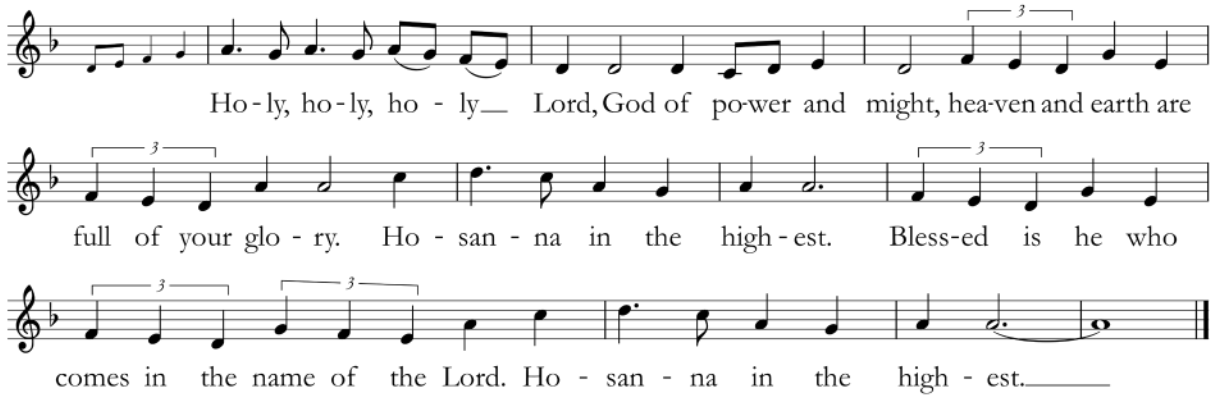
The people remain standing.

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

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus *Sung by all.* The Hymnal, S-129, Robert Powell



You may stand or kneel.

Celebrant

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Celebrant and People

Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with Blessed Stephen; Blessed Mary, Mother of God; and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you, our God and Creator, in voices of unending praise.

Celebrant and People

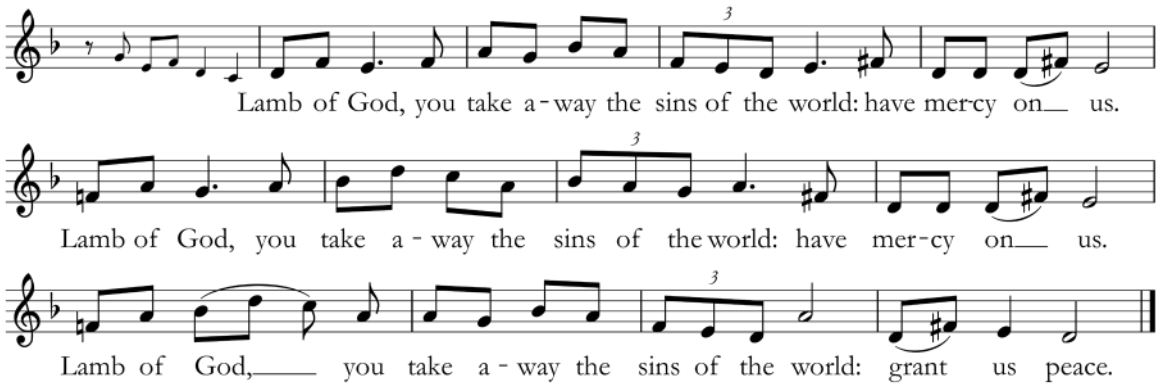
Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

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.*

The Hymnal, S-163, Robert Powell



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 [9 a.m.] or the high altar [11:15 a.m.], 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 The Servant Song *Sung by the choir.* Richard Gillard, arr. Barry Rose

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through. When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony. Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too. Amen.

Hymn 537 Christ for the world we sing *Sung by all, seated.* *Moscow*

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 **Almighty and everliving God,** The Book of Common Prayer, page 366
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

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

Hymn 518 Christ is made the sure foundation *Sung by all, standing.* *Westminster Abbey*

Dismissal The Book of Common Prayer, page 366

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Voluntary *Carillon de Westminster* from *Pièces de fantaisie (Troisième suite)*, Opus 54/6 Louis Vierne

Memorial

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jan Price by her family.

Participants

9 A.M. // CELEBRANT: The Rev. William S. Stanley; PREACHER: The Rev. John D. Rohrs; DEACON: The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; SUBDEACON: Iffet Araniti-Davis; LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTER: Kim Spensieri; READER AND INTERCESSOR: Scott Green; LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR: Clarice Dibble; CHALICE BEARERS: Tony Anthony, Bob Dibble, Barbara Massey, Deborah Waters; ACOLYTES: Muscie Garnett, Lexie Hughson, Virginia Keeney, Dalton Mika; VERGER: Dave Davis; MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Handbell Choir, Paul Honaker, *director*; St. Stephen's Choir, Chris Edwards and Robert McCormick, *directors.*

11:15 A.M. // CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony; PREACHER: John D. Rohrs; DEACON: The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; SUBDEACON: Earl Roney; ASSISTING PRIEST: The Rev. William S. Stanley; READERS: Beth Crews, Marilyn Kirkpatrick; INTERCESSOR: Connie Lankford; CHALICE BEARERS: Mim Oman, Meg Tucker, Audra Tuttle, Lauren Voyles; ACOLYTES: Pierce Rempe, Tom Rohrs, Will Rohrs, Betsy Spalding; VERGER: Andy Luke; MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Handbell Choir, Paul Honaker, *director*; St. Stephen's Choir, Diana Chou, Chris Edwards, and Robert McCormick, *directors.*

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, 804.288.2867 or **kball@ststephensRVA.org.**

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