



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

May 17, 2026 8 A.M.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY - MAY 17, 2026

	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
CRUCIFER		Diane Sams
ACOLYTES	Jack Lee	
LECTORS	Roni Boyd	Teddy Dantzler
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Jack Lee	Cyril Meredith, Jr. Courtney Manrod
USHERS	MN Campbell, Cameron Ellis	Craig Brent, Ed Johnson
GREETERS	MN Campbell	Judith Delaney, Rhonda Ashburn
COUNTERS		Roger Johnson, Roni Boyd
EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS		Judith Delaney
ALTAR GUILD	Nancy Anderson, Linda Felton, Susan Meredith, Karen Yearwood	
AV TECH		Chuck Kirk

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS - MAY 18 - MAY 23, 2026

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday.

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday, May 18	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Outreach
	5:15 p.m.	Community Mediation
	6:00 p.m.	Evangelism
Tuesday, May 19	10:00 a.m.	Tuesday Bible Study
	1:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist/Healing Service
	2:00 p.m.	Centering Prayer In-person
	6:30 p.m.	Vestry Meeting
Wednesday, May 20	8:30 a.m.	Men's Group
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 21	4:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
Friday, May 22	Office Closed	
Saturday, May 23	10 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Presider says

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

Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

GLORIA

BCP 324

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day, Psalm and readings can be found in the insert.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

ACTS 1:6-14

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68 (SAID IN UNISON)

INSERT

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

1 PETER 4:12-14; 5:6-11

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

All stand for the reading of the Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL

JOHN 17:1-11

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

FR. BAILEY NORMAN

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 326

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

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Brian, our Bishop; Jonathan, Bishop of our companion diocese of South Dakota; Bailey and Laura, our clergy; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald our President, and Bill our Governor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

In the Diocese of East Tennessee, we pray for St. Paul, Seymour. In our companion Diocese of South Dakota, we pray for St. John's, Deadwood, our sister parish, and for St. Julia Station, Porcupine. We pray for the Diocese of Haiti, St. John the Evangelist Church and Medical Clinic.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. We pray for those in rehab or assisted living: Jo Ann Baker; Dianne Davis; Roger Derby; Horia and Shafik Iskander; Allan Reiss; Mary Rhoades.

We pray for our parish members: Jerry Hanna; Dean Hartley; Cleon & Heather Hartman, Mitchell Gibbons; Roy Hartwick.

We pray for the women and men who are currently serving in the armed forces at home and abroad, especially Brian Bustle; Courtenay Clary; Reid Hartman; Robert Manrod; Alex Mol; Christopher Zunan.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Stephen, St. Alban, and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

BLESSINGS FOR BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

THE PEACE

BCP 332

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you
People **And with thy spirit.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER II

BCP 340

The people remain standing. The presider then says,

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Then the Presider proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Here a Proper Preface is said

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

S-114

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand. Then the Presider continues,

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Presider is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 336

**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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread and maintains a moment of silence.

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM

AGNUS DEI

S-159

O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Facing the people, the Presider says the following Invitation

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.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All baptized are welcome to receive communion. All are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

The Presider says

Let us pray.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

SENDING FORTH THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR

Presider In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go, may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People **Though we are many, we are one, because we share one bread and one cup.**

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God.
The Ambry candle is given to the glory of God by Renee and Carol King
in memory of Adolf and Soren King.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS - SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

Please send any bulletin, e-news or calendar announcements by Wednesday, May 20. Fully edited pertinent information, including dates, times, location(s) should be sent to editor@ststephensor.org. This email goes to both the Parish Office, and Rob Steele III, our E-News editor. Final content is at the discretion of clergy and staff.

LOOSE PLATE OFFERING

TODAY

The loose plate offering for the rest of May goes toward Clearfork. For more information please see the E-News.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

TODAY

Coffee and conversation is offered in the Parish Hall each Sunday after both our services.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LECTIONARY STUDY

TODAY

The weekly deep-dive reflection into the Sunday gospel restarted this Easter season! Fr. Bailey will be facilitating the conversation at 9:30 each Sunday morning in the Pollard Room. Even for those who might not like "traditional" Bible study, this class is a great way to engage some of the practical applications of the gospel in our walk with Christ and how we live out our faith in our homes and beyond. Hope to see everyone there!

BLESSING BOX IN ACTION

ITEMS NEEDED THIS WEEK

Thank you to everyone who is supporting the Blessing Box! Please remember the Blessing Box when you shop. This week, we are requesting donations of children's cereal, children's snacks and cereal bars. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.

LEMONADE IN THE GROVE

MAY 31

Lemonade in the Grove begins on May 31st and will continue through Labor Day. Join us for light refreshments, great conversation, and of course, lemonade!

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are dates available in the coming weeks for Altar Flowers, and/or Ambry Candles as memorial or thanksgiving remembrances. If you would like to provide the flowers, please call the church office or add your name to the calendar posted outside the parish office.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF IN THE AGE OF THE INTERNET!

JUNE 6

Recently, many of us received yet another bogus email or text claiming to be Fr. Bailey. Unfortunately, according to our resident tech guru, Jennifer Davis, this is something that most of us will experience many times in the coming years. Jennifer teaches an ORICL class at Roane State entitled "How to Protect Yourself in the Age of the Internet", and has offered to do a shortened, no-cost, one-afternoon version of the class for us here at St. Stephen's on Saturday, June 6th from 12:00-2:30 in the Parish Hall! Participants will also receive a thumb-drive with additional resources. We are very grateful for Jennifer's willingness to share her expertise with us!

PENTECOST SUNDAY

NEXT WEEK

On May 24th, weather permitting, our 10:30 a.m. service will be outdoors in the Grove. Wear your red and celebrate Pentecost followed by the Holy Ghost Weenie Roast in the Parish Hall after the service. The Men's Group will be manning the grills and will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Since Pentecost marks the birthday of the church, there will also be birthday cake! Please bring your favorite cookout food to supplement the meal.

Don't forget to wear red!

PENTECOST READERS NEEDED

As is our custom, we invite those of you who are able and willing to read in other languages to help "speak in tongues" during our Pentecost service!

All of our readers will be reading concurrently, so even if you're a little rusty in your language, I assure you no one else will know! Please note that we will be OUTSIDE in the grove for the 10:30 service that day, so if you attend that service but would rather read indoors, I can put you at the 8:00 service if you are willing.

Please e-mail me (Fr. Bailey) at rector@ststephensor.org if you are able to read, at which service (8 or 10:30), and which language. I'll send you the translation into your language by next Friday to give you a couple of days to practice.

Fr. Bailey

SERVE BEHIND THE SCENES

Join the Altar Guild. Do you have a heart for service and an eye for detail? St. Stephen's Altar Guild is looking for new members to join our ministry of care.

We work quietly behind the scenes to ensure the beauty and readiness of our sanctuary. From preparing the Holy Eucharist to caring for sacred linens, our work is the "silent heartbeat" of every service—from Sunday mornings to weddings and funerals.

Why We Need You

Currently, we are operating with three teams in rotation, and our goal is to return to four teams. Your help will allow us to continue this faithful, year-round duty without overextending our current volunteers.

Give just 1-2 hours a month to help set up and /or close our services. This role is perfect for those who enjoy quiet, meaningful work in the peaceful stillness of the sanctuary.

No experience is required. We provide full training for every willing hand!

Ready to help? Please reach out to Roni Boyd mikeroni2@comcast.net or Julie Webber Julie.webber@ststephensor.org

STAFF

THE REV. BAILEY NORMAN, RECTOR
THE REV. LAURA HENRIK, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
SIMON BALLINTOY, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
INTERIM PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
RACHEL DURFEE, PARISH ACCOUNTANT
LARRY HOPSON, SEXTON

RECTOR@STSTEPHENSOR.ORG
LAURA.HENRIK@STSTEPHENSOR.ORG
MUSIC@STSTEPHENSOR.ORG
SECRETARY@STSTEPHENSOR.ORG
RACHEL@STSTEPHENSOR.ORG
SEXTON@STSTEPHENSOR.ORG

VESTRY

SENIOR WARDEN - BETH BAILEY (2027) • JUNIOR WARDEN - BEN SHASSERE (2026)
JAMEY KENNEDY - SECRETARY • ALAN LIBY - TREASURER (2026)
CRAIG BRENT, NANCY ANDERSON (2026)
ROGER JOHNSON, CAROL KING, JULIE WEBBER (2027)
DAN DIGREGORIO, CAROL ANN LANE, JAMIE LAROSE, BRENT SIGMON (2028)
THE RT. REV. BRIAN COLE, BISHOP • THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE



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212 N. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 • Tel: 865-483-8497 • www.ststephensor.org