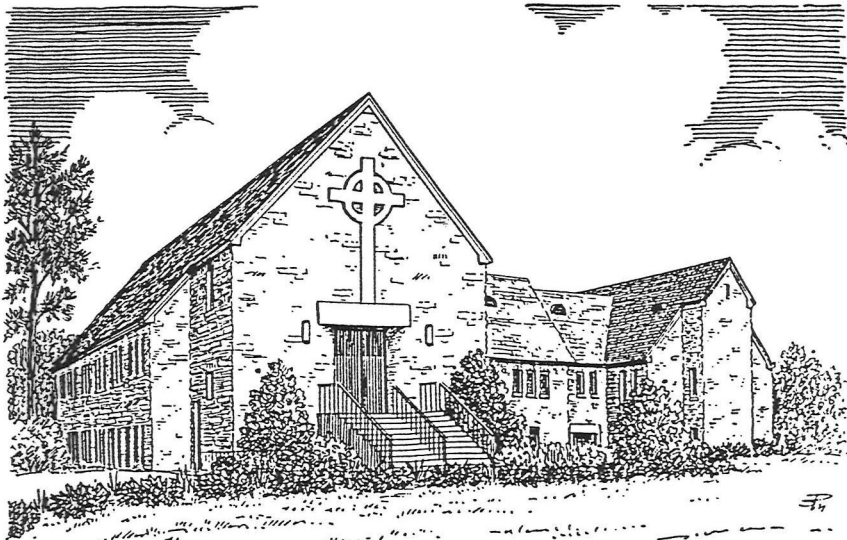


HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026
8 A.M.



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Oak Ridge, Tennessee

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD OF GOD

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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 IN EXCELSIS

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 BOOK OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL

EZEKIAL 18:1-4,25-32

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

PSALM 25:1-8 (SAID IN UNISON)

INSERT

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

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 Matthew.
People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:23-32

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.*

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; and for all the clergy and people, 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 the House of Bishops. We also pray for Joy in God's Creation (BCP p.814) and for the Mission of the Church (BCP p.838).

O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. **Amen.**

We pray for the Diocese of Haiti and St. John the Evangelist Church and medical clinic. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Church of Bangladesh.

We pray for those in assisted living or rehab; Jo Ann Baker; Margaret & Bill Baldauf; Roger Derby; Horia and Shafik Iskander; Allan Reiss.

We pray for our parish members, especially: Andrew Payzant & Linda Twohig; Amy Pennoyer, Louis, Jack.

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, and 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.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 331

Presider Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. *Amen.***

ABSOLUTION

BCP 332

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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

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.**

**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.**

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.

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 AND THE DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Pamela Stallings in honor of Jacob.

The ambry candle is given to the glory of God.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY - SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

	8:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
CRUCIFER		Teddy Dantzler
ACOLYTES	Jamey Kennedy	
LECTORS	Joe Womble	Leah Bailey
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	Jamey Kennedy	Cyril Meredith, Elizabeth Vickers
USHERS	MN Campbell, Cameron Ellis	Judith Delaney, Jerry Hanna
GREETERS	Rhonda Ashburn	Josee Tousignant
COUNTERS		Beth Bailey, Betsy Ellis
EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR		Carol Gardner
ALTAR GUILD	Week 4 - Gary Dreier, Robin Thurston, Bonnie Bautz, Julie Webber	
AV TECH		Brent Sigmon
SOURCE MATERIAL	The source material for this service is the Book of Common Prayer, Year A	
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WEEKLY SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS - SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 3

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

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday, September 28	9:00 a.m.	Staff meeting
Tuesday, September 29	11:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
	1:00 p.m.	Centering Prayer (St. Alban's Chapel)
Wednesday, September 30	8:30 a.m.	Men's Group
	9:00 a.m.	WOW
Thursday, October 1	4:00 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
Friday, October 2		Parish Office Closed

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any bulletin, e-news or calendar announcements by: noon, Tuesday September 29.

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.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

MELTON HILL PAVILLION

NEXT SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 4th at 10:30, we will be celebrating outdoors at the Melton Hill Pavilion which will include our annual Blessing of the Animals. Bring a picnic lunch to take advantage of the picnic tables after the service. Please bring your pets on a leash or "properly contained" for their blessing. Father Bailey is very good with all manner of wildlife, but would prefer not to have rodents, reptiles, amphibians, birds, etc. on the loose!

The 8a.m. service will take place in the nave, and will be livestreamed in place of the 10:30a.m. service.

LOOSE PLATE OFFERING

TODAY

The St. Stephen's Outreach Committee is sponsoring a special fundraiser for our September loose offering. CCR, (Center for Community Regeneration) is a US based 501(c)3 organization established in 2007 to address the impacts of climate change, deforestation, and resulting economic and social dislocations in Makueni County, Kenya, by using education, community building, and collaboration with Kenyan counterparts. Your gifts will support the purchase of a new pickup truck. CCR has raised some money, but the goal that is still needed is \$8,000. Outreach will match the parish's gifts up to \$1,500 from their funds. Please reach out to Gary Dreier or Fr. Bailey if you have any questions. You can read more about the organization in the weekly E-News.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

AFTER THE SERVICE

Join us for Coffee and Conversation in the Parish Hall after both services.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - LECTIONARY STUDY

EVERY SUNDAY

Fr. Bailey will be facilitating the deep-dive reflection into the Sunday gospel at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday morning in the Pollard Room.

INQUIRERS CLASSES

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

"Going through the Motions" - Exploring the rituals of our worship and how they make us the Church. It is designed for those new to St. Stephen's wanting to learn more about the Episcopal Church, but all are welcome to come and get a "refresher"! This year's class will focus on some of the particular rituals within our liturgy; e.g., Why do people cross themselves, and when? Why do we hold our hands out for communion? Why does the congregation "talk back" to the priest on occasion in the service? Each class will give a short history and lecture on the origins of each practice, and then we will have conversation about how these rituals draw us closer to God and to each other.

We will serve a light dinner each night at 5:30 p.m. Class will run from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. We will have nursery available and activities for our kids. Please join us for these fun conversations, and feel free to invite a friend!

Lobsters will be sold this Sunday after church in the Parish Hall.

Take out orders are \$40.

Dine-in orders, which include dessert and beverage, are \$45.

You can also order online by scanning the QR code below
or by going to the website:

www.ststephensor.org/claws-for-a-cause/



CLAWS FOR A CAUSE

OCTOBER 10, 2026

Our fresh Maine lobsters (flown in the day before on Delta Airlines) will be accompanied by coleslaw, corn on the cob, drawn butter and a roll. You may order yours for take-away for \$40, or enjoy it under the big tent in the Grove for \$45 (which includes dessert and beverage). Proceeds go to benefit the Family Resource Center and Grace Point.

BLESSING BOX

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 peanut butter and saltines. They can be placed in the little red wagon in the narthex.

PUMPKIN CARVING

OCTOBER 18, 2026

Following the 10:30 service on October 18th, the Evangelism and Parish Life Committees will again sponsor Pumpkin Carving in the Parish Hall along with Fall treats to eat! Pumpkins will be provided, but please bring your own carving tools. If you would like to bring some fall treats to share, please contact Leah Bailey at leah.bailey@ststephensor.org.

HOLY BOOCHARIST

OCTOBER 25, 2026

October 25th, we will celebrate Holy Boocharist at both services. Young and old are encouraged to wear their costumes to church.



STAFF

THE REV. BAILEY NORMAN, RECTOR
THE REV. LAURA HENRIK, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
SIMON BALLINTOY, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
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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



WHERE GOD IS SEEN • LOVE IS FELT • LIVES ARE CHANGED.
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