

Top: View of the Sea of Galilee from atop the Mount of Beatitudes

Left: Stained glass "Blessed are the Merciful", Right: Jesus Preaching the Sermon on the Mount

Church of the Beatitudes, Mount of Beatitudes, Israel

The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany facebook.com/SSLVwa/live sslv.org/live

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church January 29, 10:30am

We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.

To Make Your Pledge or Leave An Offering Online visit sslv.org/give

Worship Leaders January 29, 2023

Preacher	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	Juice Quiroz
Altar Guild	Robin Swecker, Heather Niemi
Coffee Hour	Danielle Rowley, Melinda Wright, Rob Painter-Johnson
Reader	Allison Long
Usher	Lloyd Solon
Verger	Lisa Sudar
Vestry Presence	
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	a Church Community [] Visiting
- -	C Ministries [] Interested in Children/Youth Ministry
	g coffee/tea/whatever with the Rector (Fr. Nic) ring the weekly Rector's Notes email
J interested in recen	ing the weekly kector's Notes email
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	fee with the Rector
Your Name:	
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A Place at the Table



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b.1931, © 1998, Hope Publishing Co. Tune: Lori True, b.1961, © 2001, GIA Publications, Inc.

St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!



(Stand as able)

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God. **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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.**

Song of Praise & Children's Procession

Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).



Music © 1984, Judith E. Hylton. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture)

A Reading from **Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth;

for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,

and redeemed you from the house of slavery;

and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,

that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

- "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
- Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old?
- Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
- Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
- He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you
- but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? * who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, * who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
 he does no evil to his friend; *
 he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, * but he honors those who fear the Lord.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong * and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, * nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things * shall never be overthrown.

A Reading from **1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(Stand as able)



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Matthew 5:1-12 Glory to you, O God.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The Gospel of our Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily The Rev. Nic Mather

Nicene Creed (Standing as able) 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.

Prayers of the People (Standing as able)

Presider Let us pray to God, who is made manifest in Jesus Christ.

Reader As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come"; empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth; we pray for this community, and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world; we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the lame. We especially pray for David Hughey, Steve Larson, Shannon Bastedenbeck, Yvette Heiman, Ema Fuchs, Magda Kozycrzak, Brian Alvarado, and those you now name either silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him; we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. Especially Tom Shabel, and those you now name either silently or aloud.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

Presider Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. **Amen**.

Confession of Sins (please kneel as able)

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

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

The Peace (Standing as able)

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

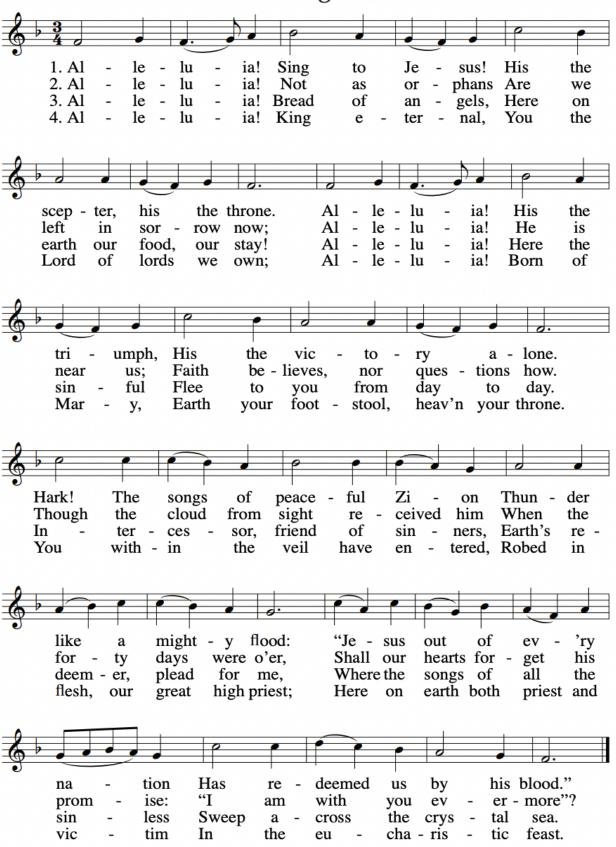
Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

An offering plate will be processed down the center aisle during the offertory hymn. Please place an offering from your heart in the plate.

Offertory

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!



Text: Revelation 5:9; William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Tune: HYFRYDOL, 8 7 8 7 D; Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Eucharistic Prayer A (Standing as able)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

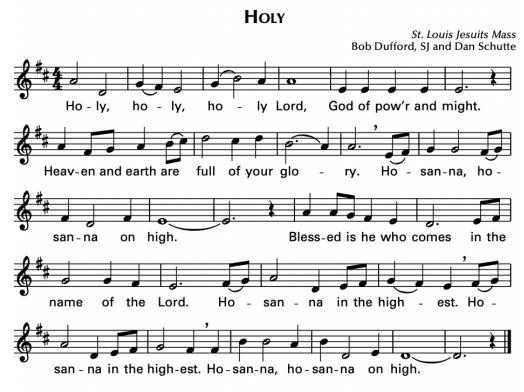
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:



The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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,

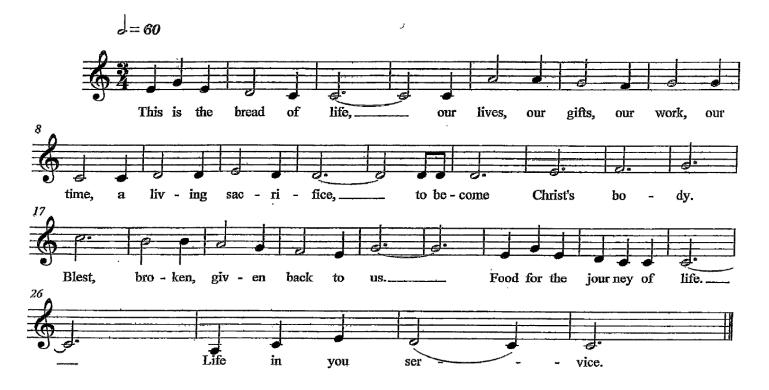
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Food Song

Ann Long/Kathleen Patton



The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please let the priest know so that they may intinct in a separate chalice reserved for this practice. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

We Are Many Parts / Muchos Miembros Hay



Text: 1 Corinthians 12, 13; Marty Haugen, b.1950; tr. by Santiago Fernández, b.1971 Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950 © 1980, 1986, 2005, GIA Publications, Inc.

For those joining via Live-Stream: A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

We offer a prayer from our community to those who are unable to join us as we send the sacrament to them carried by a minister of the church

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. **AMEN.**

Postcommunion Prayer (Kneeling as able)

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Holy eternal Father, Holy incarnate Word made flesh in Jesus the Son, Holy abiding Spirit, Bless you for evermore.

Amen.

Community Invitations



(You are invited to stand as able.)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

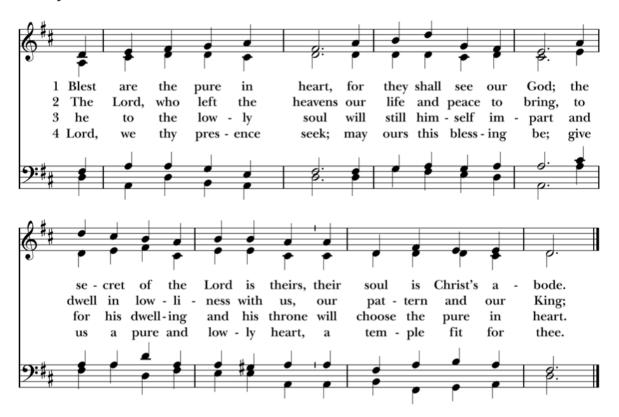
Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour! If you are new today, please take a welcome packet (found in the pew or at the front door) and if you feel comfortable, introduce yourself to Fr. Nic!

Blest are the pure in heart

The Hymnal 1982, #656



Words: Sts. 1 and 3, John Keble (1792-1866), alt.; sts. 2 and 4, William John Hall (1793-1861), alt. Music: *Franconia*, melody Johann Balthasar König (1691-1758); adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).



Volunteers Needed to Provide Dinners for Youth Group (average 10 people)! See Fr. Nic to sign up and pick your week(s)!

One Parish One Prisoner:

Meet with Merle & Daryl **after the service 1/29** to Learn More about this Ministry Opportunity (you can join them for a conversation and then join a visioning session following)

Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday February 22

Noon: Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist

7pm: Imposition of Ashes with Healing

Prayers & Holy Eucharist