



WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S LONGVIEW SSLV.ORG



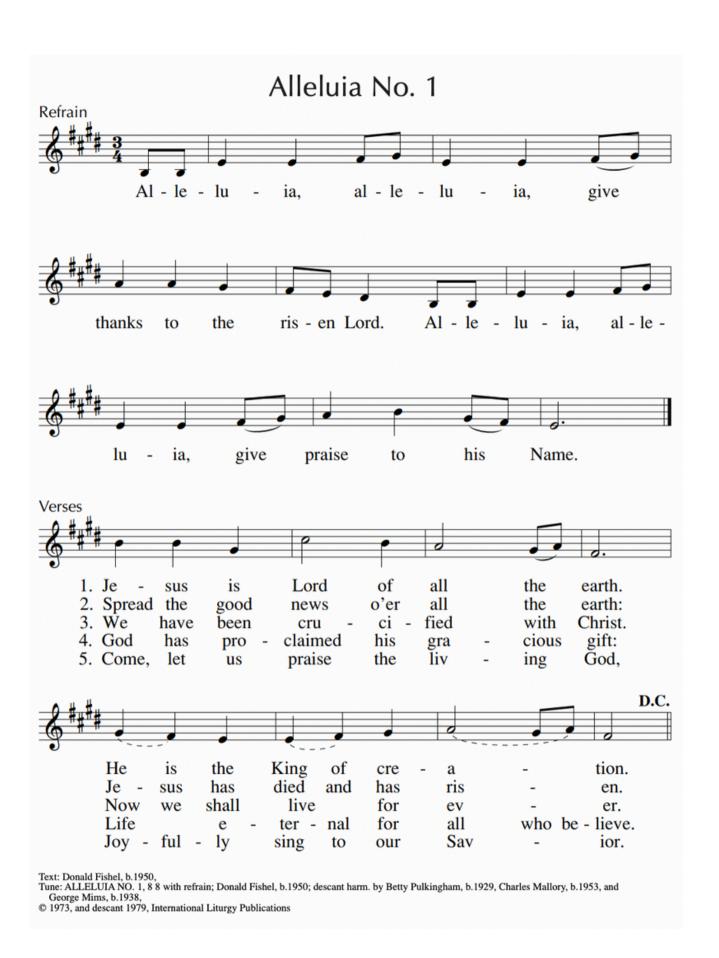
We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands 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.



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!

Connect with Fr. Nic: Please leave your name and email/phone ni	number and Fr. Nic will connect with
you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on him!	

Email/Phone:	Name:	
	Email/Phone:	



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

(Please be stand as able)

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.**

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).

The empty tomb of Christ, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem





The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

(Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture)

A Reading from Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures * and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul * and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; * you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A Reading from Revelation 7:9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Procession (before reading) & Recession (after reading) (Please stand as able)



The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to John 10:22-30 Glory to you, O Christ.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

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

Homily--The Rev. Nic Mather

THE NICENE CREED

(Please stand 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.



Crusader crosses carved into stone at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (site of Jesus' Death/Burial/Resurrection)

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: When our valleys are full of shadows Lord, send us the light of your son Jesus, that we might find our way. Shepherd of our heart, comfort us with your overflowing love, hear our prayers offered with thanksgiving ad sincerity as we say, Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Reader: When our cups seem empty Lord, fill them with your love so that our acts of service to the world overflow and benefit others.

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

When our nation and other countries walk in darkness Lord, fill our leaders with hearts that beat for peace, justice and provision for all people. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**.

When our bodies are ill and our minds are full of turmoil Lord, send us the peace our your presence and give us the gift of your healing, especially David Hughey, Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Lyn Spens, Tracy Rupe, Ina Edmiston, Sami Petersen, Shirlely Johnson and those you now name either silently or aloud. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**.

When the hungry go unfilled and the hurting are left alone Lord, melt our hearts that we might be your hands at work serving those in need. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**.

When our time on earth is ended Lord, guide us into the green pastures of your kingdom that we might live in your kingdom this day and always. we pray especially for Amanda Engh, Jim Petty, and those you now name either silently or aloud.

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

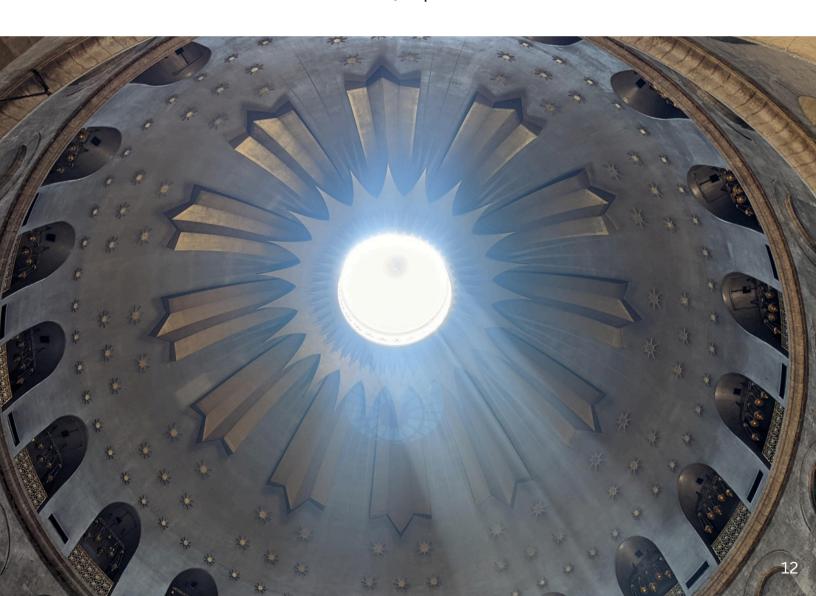
Celebrant: Accept the prayers of your sheep O Lord and grant us peace in our day that we might live out our lives to the glory of your son Jesus Christ who reigns with you and your Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **Amen**

THE PEACE & OFFERTORY

The Peace of the Risen Lord be with you and remain with you always. **Thanks be to God!**

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

The light shines through the open dome above the site of Jesus' resurrection from the tomb Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem



Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

The Hymnal 1982, #343



Words: James Montgomery (1771-1845), alt. Music: St. Agnes, melody John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876); harm. Richard Proulx (b. 1937), after John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Copyright © 1985, G.I.A. Publications.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

(Please stand 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 him thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord [Sanctus]

Wonder Love and Praise, #858



We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Phil, Nic, Michael, and all who minister in your Church.
Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.
Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Stephen and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

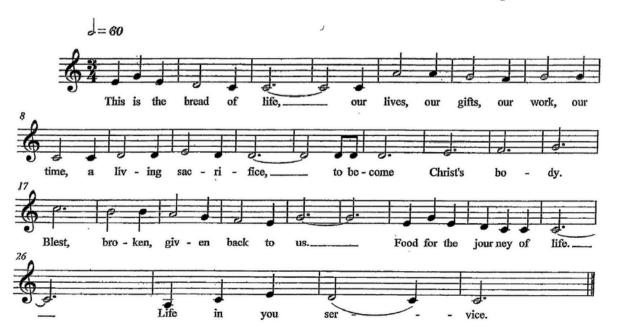
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 Fraction

Food Song

Ann Long/Kathleen Patton



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.

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.

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.

The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

(You are invited to stand as able.)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Closing Hymn

Community Invitations

Newcomers Class Continues TODAY Sunday, May 11!

If you are "new" to St. Stephen's (in the past year or two or more!) you are invited to join us for our spring newcomers class led by Mary Lyons. Each week you will have an opportunity to learn a little more about St. Stephen's, our mission and ministries, and the Episcopal Church as a whole. Join us after coffee hour each week, Sunday May 4/11/18!

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus



St. Stephen's Karaoke Night @ Fei's Carriage Thursday May 15 @ 7pm

Join your fellow St. Stephen's members and friends for a special night of Karaoke singing and fellowship at Fei's Carriage. We have the night reserved for the enjoyment of coming together to share in song and laughter. We hope you will join us!

Free Film Screening: No Other Land, Sunday May 18 @ 4pm

Join us for a free screening of Oscar-winning documentary *No Other Land*. This screening is made possible through a community partnership between: St. Stephen's, Longview UMC, Longview Church of the Nazarene, & Private Donors.

The Feast of the Ascension, Thursday May 29

Join us for a Quiet Day of prayer and reflection on the Feast of Ascension. Morning Prayer @ 9am with a reflection on the feast day.

The Feast of Pentecost, Sunday June 8

Join us for the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday June 8. We will celebrate the birth of the church and the birthdays of our parishioners with a special potluck gathering. If able please bring a dish to share according to the following: Last Name A-H: Side Dish; Last Name I-O: Dessert; Last Name P-W: Main Dish

Worship Leaders

Celebrant--Fr. Nic Mather
Musician--Riki Davis
Altar Guild--Becky Edmiston
Reader--John Edmiston, Mary Lyons
Greeter-Chalice Bearer--Bev Finlay
Usher--Mike Claxton
Verger--John Edmiston
Vestry Presence--Mike Claxton, Mary Lyons
Coffee Hour--Mother's Day Offering

Support St. Stephen's Evangelism Efforts & Look Good While Doing It!

Support St. Stephen's by purchasing a shirt through the link below. Various Style/Color options! Any additional proceeds raised will go to support Evangelism Efforts!

Link live until Friday May 16th!





