



WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S LONGVIEW SSLV.ORG



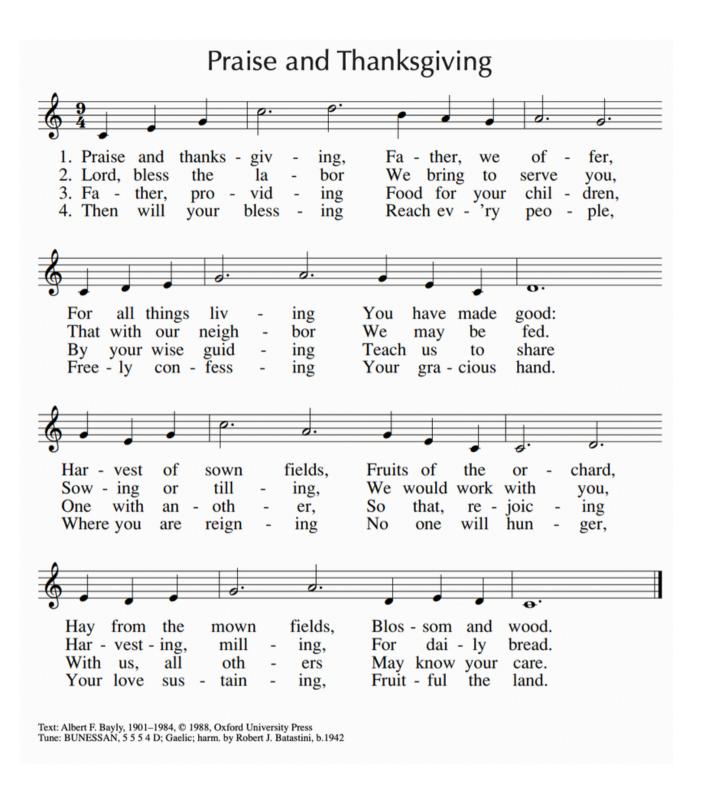
We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands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

| Name: | |
|--------------|--|
| Email/Phone: | |



THE FIFTH 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 Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

(Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture)

A Reading from Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, `By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, `What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, `Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, `John baptized with

water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 148

- 1 Hallelujah!
 Praise the Lord from the heavens; *
 praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you angels of his; * praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; * praise him, all you shining stars.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, * and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord; * for he commanded, and they were created.
- 6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever; *
 he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, * you sea-monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and fog, * empestuous wind, doing his will;

- 9 Mountains and all hills, * fruit trees and all cedars;
- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, * creeping things and winged birds;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, * princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and maidens, * old and young together.
- 13 Let them praise the Name of the Lord, * for his Name only is exalted, his splendor is over earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, *
 the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
 Hallelujah!

A reading from the Book of Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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 13:31-35 Glory to you, O Christ.

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: Glorious, creating, and sustaining God; who made and cares for the world with love and mercy; hear and answer the prayers of you people as we say, Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Reader: Encourage and embolden us, your people, that we might fully live into our potential and take up Christ's healing mission with courage and persistence.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Open the hearts of those who hold authority in the world that they might focus their gaze and attention on policies that promote peace, wellness, and the relief of suffering.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Help us to see the needs of those we encounter in our daily lives and grant us a desire for generosity that we might respond with love and mercy. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**.

Grant us wisdom and determination to respond effectively to climate change; help us reclaim our intended role as stewards, and not destroyers, of your wonderfully created world.

Lord, in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Bring your healing presence to all who suffer in any way. Give them strength to cope and bring skilled and healing caregivers into their lives. Especially we pray for David Hughey, Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Sami Peterson, Shirley Johnson, Lyn Spens, Reed Nunnelee, and those you now name either silently or aloud. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**.

Be with those who are in their last days, those who watch over them, and those who will grieve their loss. Take them into your eternal care and reunite us with them in your new age.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord, Creation sings your praise in its very being. Help us to hear the song and add our own voices. Be present to us and guide us on the Way of your Son, our Lord, Jesus, through whom we pray and give thanks. **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.

Offertory Offering

They'll Know We are Christians Bell Choir

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**.

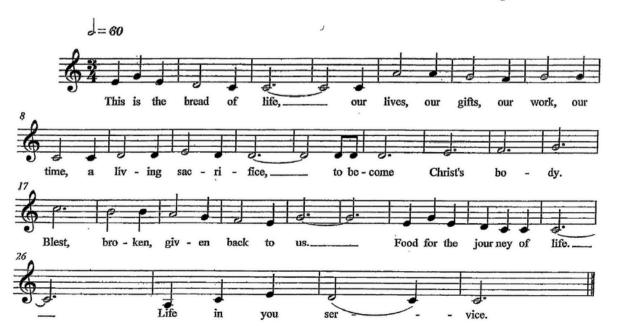
As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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

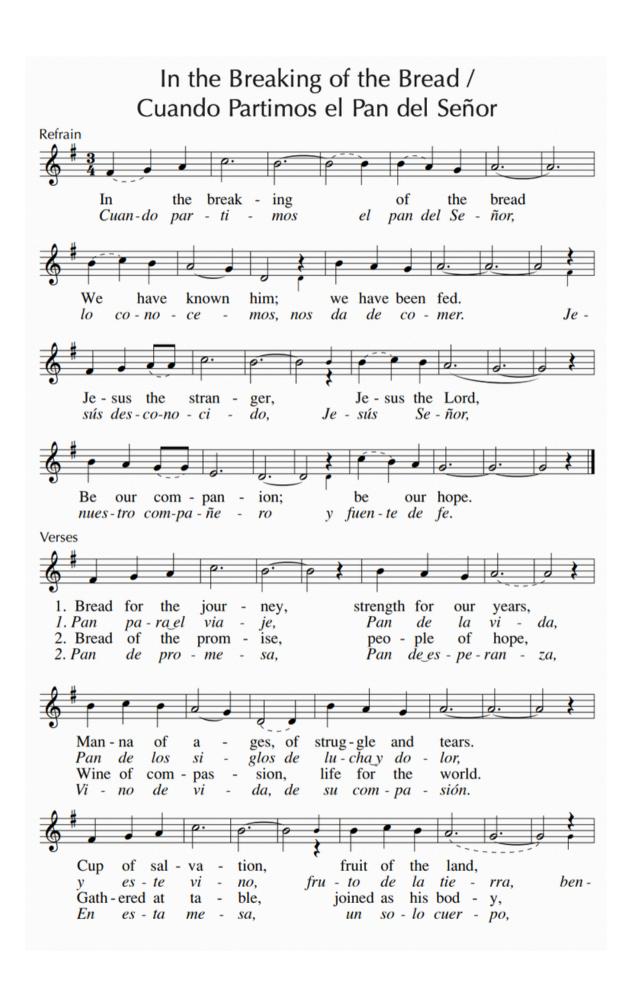
(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

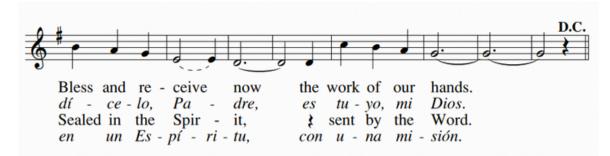
My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely 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.**





Original Verses:

- 1. Once I was helpless, sad and confused; darkness surrounded me, courage removed. And then I saw him by my side. Carry my burden, open my eyes.
- 2. There is no sorrow, pain or woe; there is no suffering he did not know. He did not waver; he did not bend. He is the victor. He is my friend.

Text: Bob Hurd, b.1950, and Michael Downey, © 1984, 1987; Spanish text by Stephen Dean and Kathleen Orozco, © 1989, OCP Tune: Bob Hurd, b.1950, © 1984; acc. by Dominic MacAller, b.1959, © 1984, OCP Published by OCP.

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.)

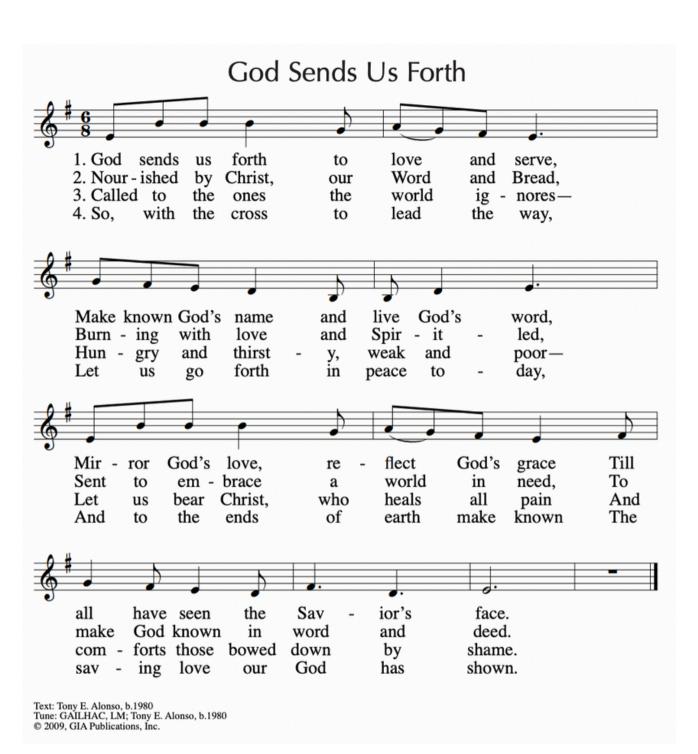
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Closing Hymn

Community Invitations

Newcomers Class Concludes TODAY Sunday, May 18!

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!



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 Presbyterian, Longview UMC, The Rev. Mike Yost, & Private Donors.

Wednesday Centering Prayer May 21, 28, June 4 @ 9:30am, All Saints Chapel

Join us on Wednesdays for a special offering of centering prayer, with intentional space for silence and reflection.

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--Robin Swecker
Reader--Lauren Henricksen, Josh Carter
Greeter--Gretchen Niemi
Chalice Bearer--Michele Waite
Usher--Don Willows
Verger--Garry Beauregard
Vestry Presence--Heather Niemi, Robin Swecker
Coffee Hour--Tosha Big Eagle