

The Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 31, 2025

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Longview, WA

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 St. Stephen's!

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

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____



Coming Together for Wine and for Bread

Verses 1-3



1. Com - ing to - geth - er for Wine and for Bread,
 2. Who will be hun - gry if, hear - ing the call,
 3. Here at this ta - ble, we're wel - comed by name;



Tast - ing the sto - ry and hear - ing it read,
 We of - fer seats at our ban - quet to all?
 All are in - vit - ed, each seat is the same.



Know - ing our hun - ger and shar - ing the meal
 Who is for - got - ten? Whom will we ig - nore?
 Serv - ing, re - ceiv - ing, and eat - ing the feast



O - pens our eyes to see Je - sus is real.
 Who is the out - cast that knocks at our door?
 Hum - bles the haugh - ty and hon - ors the least.

Verse 4



4. Bless - ing this ta - ble the Spir - it is here



Grant - ing us vi - sion, so sud - den - ly clear:



Shar - ing and serv - ing, the bod - y is fed,



Nour - ished by Je - sus, the Wine and the Bread,



Nour - ished by Je - sus, the Wine and the Bread.

The Liturgy of the Word

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).

Worship Leaders August 31, 2025

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Altar Guild	Robin Swecker
Reader	Katherine Beauregard, Mary Hoover
Greeter	Cheryl Karr
Chalice Bearer	Michele Waite
Usher	Greg Lopic
Vergar	Garry Beauregard
Vestry Presence	Heather Niemi, Katherine Beauregard

Gloria! Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

$\text{♩} = 145$ Joyfully!

Mike Anderson

D G A D G A D *Last time to*

(clap, clap) (clap, clap)

Glo - ri - al! Glo - ri - al! In ex - cel - sis De - o!

5 A D A F#7

v.1 Lord - God hea - ven - ly - King, peace you bring to
 v.2 Je - sus, Sa - viour - of all, Lord - God, Lamb - of
 v.3 At the Fa - ther's right hand, Lord, re - ceive our
 v.4 Glo - ry Fa - ther and Son, glo - ry Ho - ly

8 Bm Em Em7

us! We wor - ship - you, we give you thanks, we
 God, you take a - way our sins, oh Lord, have
 prayer. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly - One and
 Spi - rit! To you we raise our hands up high! We

11 Em A sus4 A D.C. G A

sing our song - of praise! In ex - cel - sis
 mer - cy on - us all!
 you - a - lone are Lord!
 glo - ri - fy your name!

15 D G A D

De - o! In ex - cel - sis De - - -

19

o!

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 **Sirach 10:12-18**

The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord;
the heart has withdrawn from its Maker.

For the beginning of pride is sin,
and the one who clings to it pours out abominations.

Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities,
and destroys them completely.

The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers,
and enthrones the lowly in their place.

The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations,
and plants the humble in their place.

The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations,
and destroys them to the foundations of the earth.

He removes some of them and destroys them,
and erases the memory of them from the earth.

Pride was not created for human beings,
or violent anger for those born of women.

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

Psalm 112

- 1 Hallelujah!**
Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!
- 2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land; ***
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- 3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, ***
and their righteousness will last for ever.
- 4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; ***
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.
- 5 It is good for them to be generous in lending ***
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- 6 For they will never be shaken; ***
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.
- 7 They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; ***
their heart is right;
they put their trust in the Lord.
- 8 Their heart is established and will not shrink, ***
until they see their desire upon their enemies.
- 9 They have given freely to the poor, ***
and their righteousness stands fast for ever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- 10 The wicked will see it and be angry;**
they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will perish.

A Reading from **Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

Gospel Processional (before reading) & Recessional (after reading)

(Please stand in body or spirit)



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Luke 14:1, 7-14**
Glory to you, O Christ.

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

Homily

The Rev Nic Mather

Nicene Creed *(Please stand in body or spirit)*

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

Celebrant: Lord, our God, grant that we might see the majesty of your glory in our lives and hear our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Lead your church into humility and may her leaders be first her servants, seeking only and always to glorify you in their lives. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us selfless civil leaders who are zealous for truth, justice, and mercy and whose efforts build up the whole community and bring people together. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden us to make the difficult choices to ensure the continued abundance of your Creation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make us good neighbors and open our eyes to see you in the eyes of those we encounter, that together we might build a community where everyone can thrive and live into their potential. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give peace and strength to those who are sick or injured or who endure suffering in all its myriad forms. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nunnelee, D. Rowley, Marlene Norman, Mary Russell, Duane Jones, and those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant the dead entrance into your eternal embrace and grant us also to enter and join them there when we leave this world. Especially those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God of Glory, through your Son, you have shown us the strength of your love, grant that we might follow in His path and continue his ministry until His return; through the same Son, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sins *(Please kneel in body or spirit)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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 *(Please stand in body or spirit)*

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

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Give to the virtual offering plate by scanning or online @ sslv.org

Virtual Offering Plate

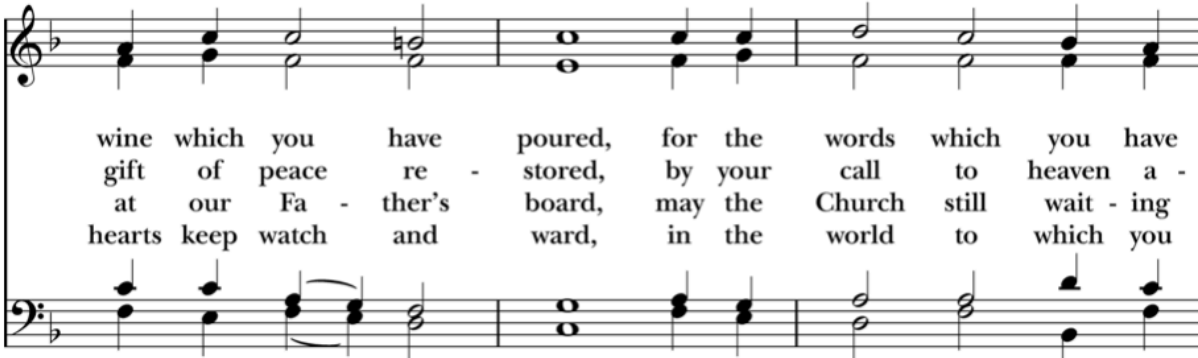


For the bread which you have broken


The Hymnal 1982, #341



1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your
3 As our bless - ed ones a - dore you, seat - ed
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our



wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
at our Fa - ther's board, may the Church still wait - ing
hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you



spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

Words: Louis F. Benson (1855-1930), alt. Copyright © Louis F. Benson. Used by permission of Robert F. Jeffery. Music: *Omni die*, melody from *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, 1631; harm. William Smith Rockstro (1823-1895).

Eucharistic Prayer C

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.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. **By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with a great diversity of gifts and abilities. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

The Sanctus acclamation is sung to conclude the introduction to the eucharistic prayer.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **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 Breaking of the Bread

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

Fraction Anthem

Fraction Ann Marie Long

Al - le lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia Al - le - lu _____

4 ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us, There-fore let us keep the

8 feast. Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

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 leave the bread in your hands and the chalice bearer will intinct for you. 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

(Please kneel in body or spirit)

**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 blessing of God: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

(Please stand in body or spirit)

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Saints that have come before and the Spirit that is with us now.
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 and coffee mug (found at the front door)!*

A Place at the Table

Verses



1. For ev - 'ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble, for
 2. For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble, re -
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, a
 4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble, a -
 5. For ev - 'ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble, to



ev - 'ry - one born, clean wa - ter and bread, a
 vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share, with
 voice to be heard, a part in the song, the
 bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give, in
 live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be, to



shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing, for
 wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er, for
 hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled, for
 an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy, for
 work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship, for



ev - 'ry - one born, a star o - ver - head.
 wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair.
 young and for old, the right to be - long. And
 just and un - just, a new way to live.
 ev - 'ry - one born, the right to be free.

Refrain



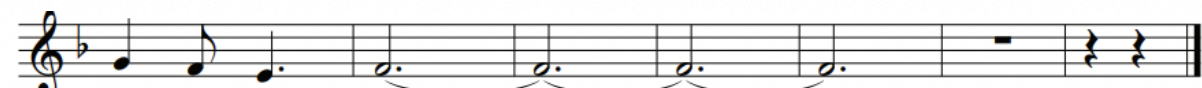
God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of



jus - tice and joy, yes, God will de - light



when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!

Community Notes & Invitations:



Join Us Sunday September 7 for our Annual Welcome Back Sunday Extravaganza!

Bring your bag/backpack for a blessing as the school year and fall season begin (both for kids and adults!)

Engage in special worship focused on The Season of Creation, a global ecumenical effort to raise awareness of our call to steward our creation!

Join us after service for a community Potluck: Last Names A-J please bring an appetizer, Last Name K-Z please bring a main dish!

There will also be a pie baking contest: If you are interested in entering please let Fr. Nic know, all pies of all types are welcome!

And after all of that: There will be a Ministry Fair where many of our ministries and leaders will be present sharing about all of the ways you can get involved at St. Stephen's! We hope to see you there!