

The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 5, 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!

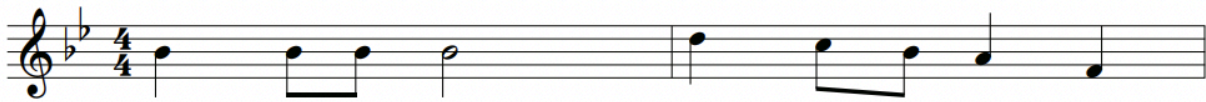
Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____



Making Their Way



1. Mak - ing their way down through the a - ges,
 2. Mak - ing their way all the world o - ver,
 3. Mak - ing our way sea - son by sea - son,



Sin - ners and saints have heard God's call: Wealth-y and poor,
 Chris - tians as - sem - ble on this day, Hear - ing the Word,
 Pil - grims, we jour - ney till life's end, Trav - el-ing light,



pow - er-ful, low - ly, Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all.
 shar - ing the Ban-quet, Learn-ing to walk in Je - sus' way.
 shar - ing the rich - es, Car - ing for stran - ger as for friend,



Gath - ered for wor - ship, of - fer-ing thanks, The great - est
 Mem - bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love, They seek our
 Till in the joy of long - ing ful - filled, To - geth - er



with the least Have come to share this feast.
 God to know, And so to - geth - er grow.
 we will come To our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b.1939, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Tune: KOMT NU MET ZANG, 9 8 9 8 9 66; Valerius' *Neder-landsche gedenck-klanck*; acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942

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 October 5, 2025

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	Niko Hanberg
Altar Guild	Gretchen Niemi, Heather Niemi
Reader	Mary Lyons, Alison Askeland
Greeter	Rob Painter-Johnson
Chalice Bearer	Karen Miller
Usher	Don Willows
Verger	Lisa Sudar
Vestry Presence	Gretchen Niemi, Rob Painter-Johnson

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music, #280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; 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 **Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4**

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

Why do you make me see wrong-doing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

So the law becomes slack
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous--
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost,
and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.

Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.

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

Psalm 37:1-10

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.**
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.**
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.**
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.**
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.**
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.**
- 7 Be still before the LORD *
and wait patiently for him.**
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.**
- 10 For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.**

A Reading from **2 Timothy 1:1-14**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God-- whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did-- when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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 17:5-10**
Glory to you, O Christ.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

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: Almighty God, increase our faith and hear our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Help your church to perceive and answer your call to serve and to build the kingdom of God. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the people and leaders of this nation towards unity of purpose and mutual regard, that we might be a civil society that offers hope and opportunity to all its members. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden us to be committed stewards of the creation you have entrusted to our care that all future generations might know its abundance. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire our parish to go forth and share the good news with our neighbors so that through our actions they might see a glimpse of your glorious Good News. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your healing presence known in the lives of all who suffer and let us be instruments of your healing love. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nunnelee, D. Rowley, Marlene Norman, Diane Glase, Janice Stixrud, Lyn Spens, Barbara Swecker, Marg Ofstun, and those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May the dead know the brightness of your love, and may we also come to join them in your presence. Especially those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God of power and might, in the life of your Son you have shown us the model and potential of our own lives. Grant us the faith to continue His mission and ministry and answer our prayers as may be best for us and to

your glory, through the same Son, our Lord, Christ Jesus who with you and Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, One God, now and 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
Today is FISH Sunday! Please give in the FISH envelopes!



The Church of Christ



1. The Church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age Be - set by
 2. A - cross the world, a - cross the street, The vic - tims
 3. Then let the ser - vant Church a - rise, A car - ing
 4. For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, Can cure the
 5. We have no mis - sion but to serve In full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, Must claim and test its her - it -
 of in - jus - tice cry For shel - ter and for bread to
 Church that longs to be A part - ner in Christ's sac - ri -
 fe - ver in our blood, And teach us how to share our
 be - dience to our Lord: To care for all, with - out re -



age And keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 eat, And nev - er live un - til they die.
 fice, And clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 bread And feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 serve, And spread his lib - er - at - ing Word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, © 1972, Hope Publishing Company
 Tune: O WALY WALY, LM; English; harm. by Martin West, b.1929

Eucharistic Prayer A

(Please stand in body or spirit)

Celebrant The Lord be with you. or God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. 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:

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.

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker and of all. Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's 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 Christ. 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 Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ 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 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.

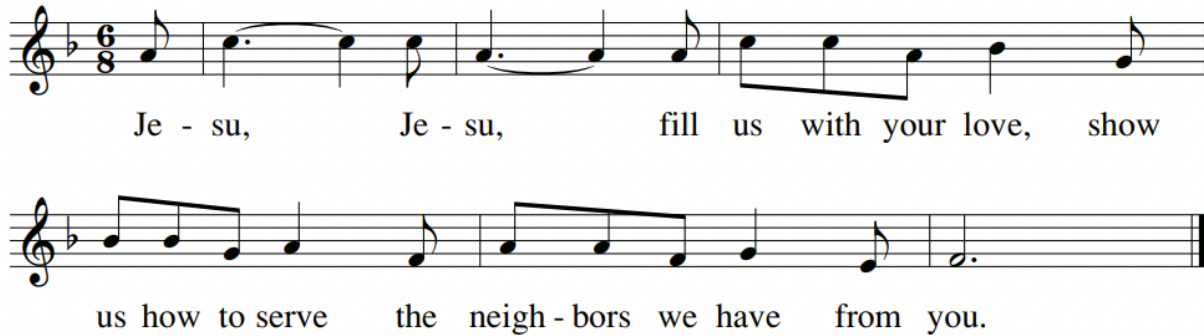
Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

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.

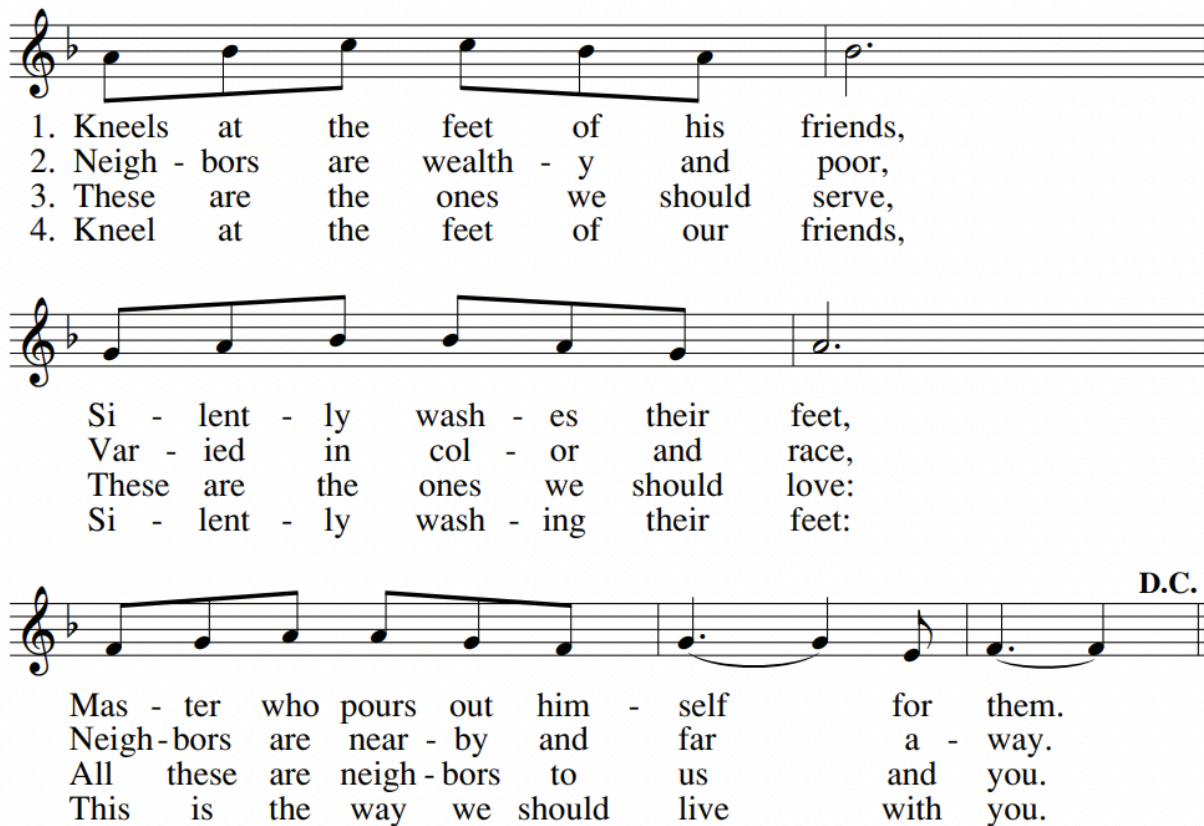
Jesu, Jesu

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.

Verses



1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
2. Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor,
3. These are the ones we should serve,
4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,
Si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
Var - ied in col - or and race,
These are the ones we should love:
Si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:
Mas - ter who pours out him - self for them.
Neigh - bors are near - by and far a - way.
All these are neigh - bors to us and you.
This is the way we should live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Tune: CHEREPONI, Irregular; Ghana folk song; adapt. by Tom Colvin, 1925–2000; acc. by Jane M. Marshall, b.1924
© 1969, and arr. © 1982, Hope Publishing Company

Postcommunion Prayer

(Please kneel in body or spirit)

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of Christ,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Savior.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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 Spirit.
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)!***

Jesus in the Morning



1. Je - sus,	Je - sus,	Je - sus in	the morn - ing,
2. Praise him,	Praise him,	Praise him in	the morn - ing,
3. Love him,	Love him,	Love him in	the morn - ing,
4. Serve him,	Serve him,	Serve him in	the morn - ing,
5. Je - sus,	Je - sus,	Je - sus in	the morn - ing,



Je - sus in	the noon - time;	Je - sus,	Je - sus,
Praise him in	the noon - time;	Praise him,	Praise him,
Love him in	the noon - time;	Love him,	Love him,
Serve him in	the noon - time;	Serve him,	Serve him,
Je - sus in	the noon - time;	Je - sus,	Je - sus,



Je - sus when	the sun	goes	down!
Praise him when	the sun	goes	down!
Love him when	the sun	goes	down!
Serve him when	the sun	goes	down!
Je - sus when	the sun	goes	down!

Text: African American folk song
Tune: African American folk song

FISH SUNDAY: The First Sunday of Every Month!

Fish Soup Needs

The FISH crew would like to continue the annual soup kits that are made every year. This all began when 8 years ago we could not give away the bags of dry beans that were donated. We are now in need of specific, DRY beans to make these kits. We need the help of at least 35 people to donate the following in **ONE pound bags**:

1 bag Black Beans

2 bags Green Split Peas

2 bags Red beans

If you prefer to donate, we will be happy to do the shopping for you. Thank you!

September Distribution Report

We had a busy FISH distribution week at St. Stephen's September 16 through 19. We served 158 families, including two walk ups and one home delivery. We were happy to include three new volunteers that week, including St. Stephen's members Cheryl Karr and Jim Olson.

A big thank you to Fr. Nic for his help to update the FISH phone system, which had caused a lot of frustration from clients. I heard so many comments from clients who were pleased with the change.

Our next distribution is November 18 through 21. We will be concentrating on Thanksgiving dinner items. We will be having our annual bean soup mix volunteer opportunity on **Tuesday, November 4 at noon**. Hot soup will be available as we put together packages of dry soup mix. Still accepting donations of kidney or red beans and split peas for our mix. Thank you everyone.

Gretchen Niemi, Robin Swecker and Judy Swanson, your FISH team

Save the Dates:

Join us today at 12:30pm for A Season of Creation Formation event:

A special screening of *Burned: Are Trees the New Coal?*, about the Biomass Wood Pellet Fuel industry

Wednesday Centering Prayer:

Weekly on Wednesdays in All Saints Chapel, 9:30am

Art Night @ The Nest:

Wednesday, October 15 @ 6:30, RSVP Required

Fall Book Study:

How We Learn To Be Brave by Bishop Mariann Budde, Wednesdays October 22-November 19 @ 6pm, please let Fr. Nic know if you plan to participate and/or need help ordering a book. Location TBD based on number of participants.

St. Stephen's Regional Host for 2025 Diocesan Convention, October 25:

Volunteers Needed! See Fr. Nic after worship!

Newcomer Sunday @ Coffee Hour October 26

All Saints Sunday, November 2 @ 10:30am, Special Baptism Service:

Help us welcome Jossalyn and Niko into Christ's family! Special Coffee Hour to follow!

3rd Annual Chili Cook Off Contest, Sunday October 26 @ Coffee Hour: Sign Up Today to bring a pot of chili or a cornbread or a dessert!

First Sunday of Advent, Sunday November 30:

Advent Wreath Making @ Coffee Hour