

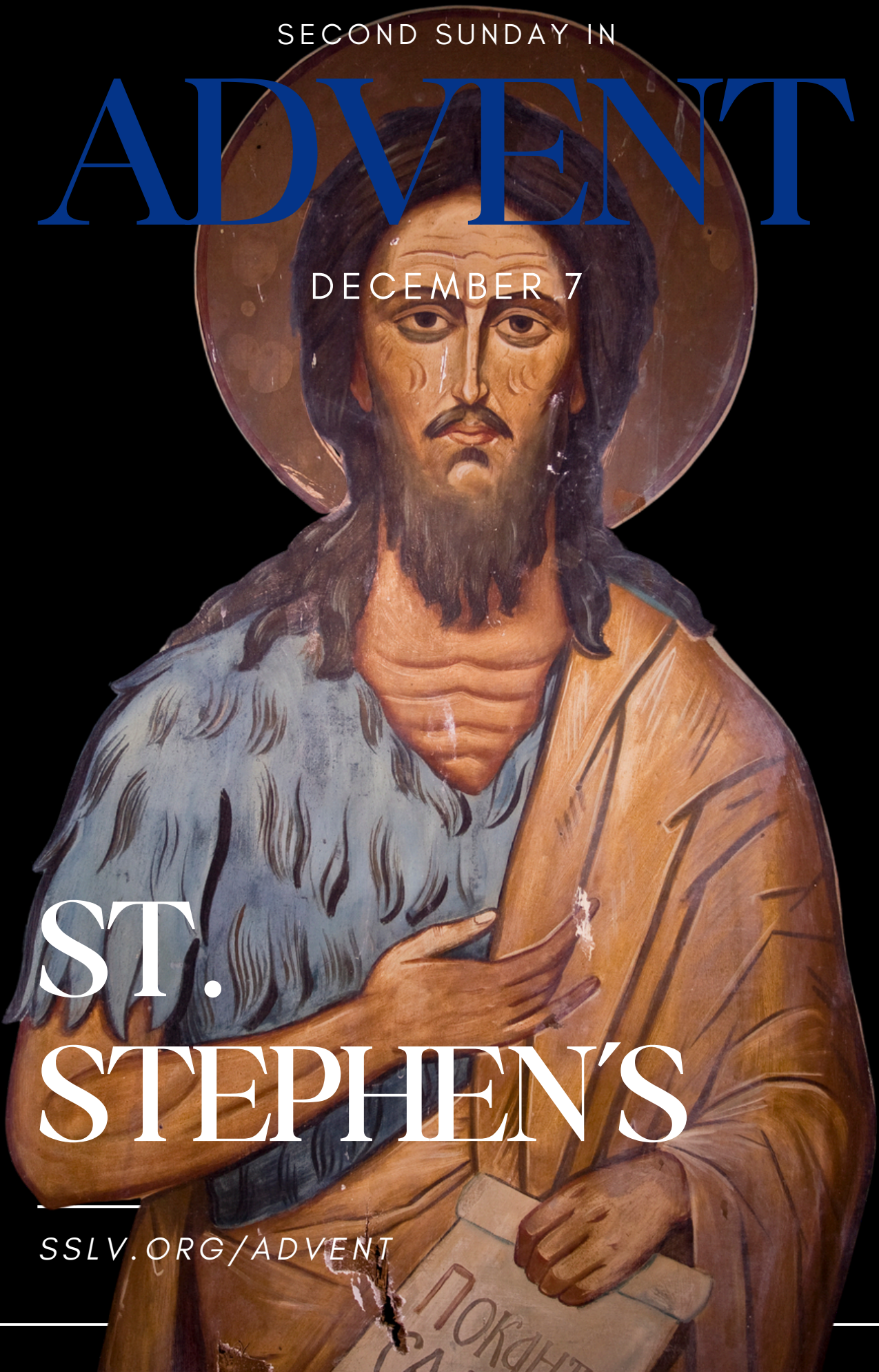
SECOND SUNDAY IN

# ADVENT

DECEMBER 7

ST.  
STEPHEN'S

[SSLV.ORG/ADVENT](https://sslv.org/advent)





# WE LIGHT THE SECOND CANDLE

**Reader:** The second week of Advent we remember the gift of Peace we have in Christ. Peace is a gift that we must be prepared for and must work for. God gives us the gift of peace when we turn to him working together in faith.

**Reader:** Through John the Baptist and all the other prophets, God asks us to prepare the way of the Lord, whom the prophet Isaiah calls “the Prince of Peace.” As we light this candle today we look with hope for the day that Christ’s peace will reign in our hearts, in our homes, in our communities, and in our world. As we light this candle, we are reminded to work for that peace of Christ to come and take root in us.

***Reader lights the first two blue candles on the Advent Wreath.***

*When lighting your wreath at home, family members share how they have experienced peace today.*

**Reader:** Let us pray--Loving God, we thank you for the gift of peace you give us through Jesus. Help us prepare our hearts for the Lord’s coming by working for Christ’s peace to take root in our family. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

**All: Amen.**



## Worship Leaders December 7, 2025

**Presider** The Rev. Nic Mather

**Preacher** Mary Lyons

**Musician** Riki Davis, Simon Nissen

**Acolyte** Niko Hanberg, Ella Mather

**Altar Guild.** Gretchen Niemi, Heather Niemi

**Reader** Rob Sudar, Rob Painter-Johnson

**Greeter.** Gretchen Niemi

**Chalice Bearer.** Mary Hoover, Mary Lyons

**Usher.** Don Willows

**Verger** Lisa Sudar

**Vestry Presence.** Gretchen Niemi, Rob Painter-Johnson

**Coffee Hour** Robin Swecker, Alison Askeland

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!



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### 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: \_\_\_\_\_



# On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

*The Hymnal 1982, #76*

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make  
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our  
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and  
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -  
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we  
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy  
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.  
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.  
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.  
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.



Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
**You come to your people and set them free.**

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 Wind that Stirs the Sea to Sing



1. The wind that stirs the sea to sing, to surge and soar and drum,  
2. A - rise and blow from God's deep core, a stea - dy driv - ing gale, —  
3. Then with your flame and wind ig - nite the hope we sing and pray:



is e - choed in the prayer we bring: O Ho - ly Spi - rit, come!  
and fill this church for - e ver - more with faith that will not fail!  
that we will fol - low Christ the light, the truth, the life, the way!

O Ho - ly Spi - rit, come! \_\_\_\_  
With faith that will not fail! \_\_\_\_  
The truth, the life, the way! \_\_\_\_

Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945

Music: John Tirro, b. 1966

Text ©2015 Oxford University Press, Music ©2017 Mondo Zen Music.

# The Liturgy of The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.



*Jesus as a child at  
The Creche  
Orphanage  
Bethlehem*





The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the  
lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of  
the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on  
the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;

for the earth will be full of the knowledge of  
the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a  
signal to the peoples; the nations shall  
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be  
glorious.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's  
people.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Birthplace of  
Christ, Church of  
the Nativity,  
Bethlehem*

# Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the  
people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.

5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
\*  
from one generation to another.

6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown  
field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon  
shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!

19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

*A Star in the  
ceiling of a  
shepherd's cave,  
Bethlehem*



# The Liturgy of The Word

A reading from Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Procession (before reading) & Recession (after reading)

(please stand in body or spirit)

### O Come, O Come, Great Mystery Advent Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu ia Al - le - lu ia

O come, O come Great Mys - ter - y All

minds are op - en, hearts set free En - light - en us to hear your voice. Send

us all peace, and urge us to re - joice We wait, we hope, we

yearn, we pray for you to o - pen us and make all things new.

We wait, we hope, we yearn, we pray for you to

o - pen us and make all things new.

Al - le - lu ia Al - le - lu ia

Melody: VENI, EMMANUEL, French Procession, 15 cent.

Arrangement: Lacey Brown, b. 1981

Text: Lacey Brown, b. 1981

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# **The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Matthew. Glory to you O Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of Our Savior.  
**Praise to you O Christ.**

**Homily--Mary Lyons**

# The 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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

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 and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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:* Holy God, yours is the voice that calls from the places we least expect, inviting us into ever deeper relationship with you that we might live surrounded by your love. Hear now our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Reader:* We pray for Christ's church, that we may never become settled in comfort but that we might always be on pilgrimage serving those we encounter. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who hold authority over us, that they might escape from their fears and hatreds and govern in the glory of your mercy and wisdom. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for each other in this parish community, that we might discern our own calls to be Christ in all the places our day-to-day lives take us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the natural world and for our own stewardship of creation, that we might be advocates for actions needed to leave an abundant creation for future generations. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in need of healing and relief from their burdens, worries, and fears. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nennelee, D. Rowley, Jake Miller, Cheryl Karr, Linda Thomas, and those you now name silently or aloud. *Pause.*  
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died and those who grieve, hasten the day of Christ's return that we might be reunited with all whom we have loved by see no more. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, you entered into our world and blessed our lives through the life, death and resurrection of Christ, you son and our Lord. Bless us still as we strive to become the people we were meant to be. **Amen.**

## **Confession & Absolution (please kneel in body or spirit)**

Let us confess our sins to God  
**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.**

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!**

## **The Offertory**

God of our future, whose compassion is unlimited, all that we have is yours and to you we shall render account for all you have given us. As we offer you these gifts we enjoy from your bounty, grant that we may live well, love generously, and seek first your kingdom, on earth as in heaven, through Jesus Christ our most kind Judge and Savior. **Amen.**

## **Offertory Music--**

Come Thou, Redeemer of the Earth  
arr Richard Shephard  
Lisa Sudar oboe  
Simmon Nissen Violin  
Choir

# HOLY EUCHARIST

(please stand in body or spirit)

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and God of  
might. Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nah in the  
high - est. Blest is He com - ing in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nah  
in the high - est. Ho - sa - nah in the high - est.



Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, 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 poured out for you and for all 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.**

Remembering his death and resurrection we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with the Blessed Mother Mary, Stephen and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, 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.**

**Fraction (to the tune of Greensleeves)**

**What feast of love is offered here  
What banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life  
What gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
The bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!**

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 hand and the chalice minister 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 by 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**

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.**



# Warm the Time of Winter

## Verses



1. When the wind of win - ter blows, bring - ing times of  
 2. When we shiv - er in des - pair, when the chill of  
 3. When in days of fall - en snow, change con - founds or



sol - i - tude, fill the si - lent, ic - y night;  
 death comes near, hold us, Spir - it, calm our fear,  
 love burns low, from the ash - es may there rise



be our hearts' com - pas - sion.  
 while the eve - ning deep - ens. Ho - ly Light,  
 phoe - nix of our grow - ing.



warm our night; warm the time of win - ter. Ho - ly Light,



warm our night; warm the time of win - ter.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.  
 Tune: Lori True, b.1961, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

# Postcommunion

(please stand in body or spirit)

God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

Holy eternal Majesty, Holy incarnate Word, Holy abiding Spirit, Bless you for evermore. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

***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)!***

## Christmas Flower Offerings

The floral adornment of the church is made possible by your donations. If you would like to make a contribution, use the envelopes in the pews or turn it into the office by December 18th. Please make sure that the names of those being memorialized are legible.



# O Come, Divine Messiah!



1. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah! The world in si - lence  
 2. O come, De-sired of na - tions, Whom priest and proph - et  
 3. O come in peace and meek - ness, For low - ly will your



waits the day When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And  
 long fore-told. Come break the cap - tive fet - ters, Re -  
 cra - dle be: Though clothed in hu - man weak - ness We



sad - ness flee a - way.  
 deem the long - lost fold. Dear Sav-ior, haste! Come, come to  
 shall your God - head see.



earth. Dis-pel the night and show your face, And bid us



hail the dawn of grace. O come, Di - vine Mes -



si - ah! The world in si - lence waits the day When



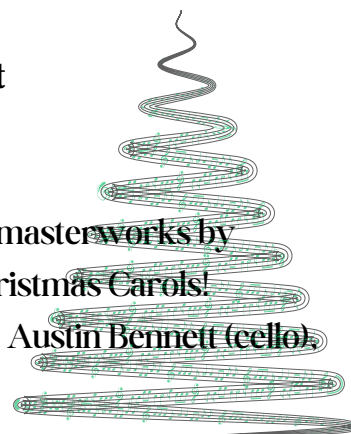
hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: *Venez, divin Messie*; Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663–1745; tr. by Sr. Mary of St. Philip, SND, 1825–1904, alt.  
 Tune: VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE, 7 8 7 6 with refrain; French Noël, 16th C.; harm. by Healey Willan, 1880–1968



## Save the Dates:

- **Columbia River Chamber Music Festival Christmas Concert**
  - **Saturday, December 13 @ 3pm**
  - **St. Stephen's Parish Hall**
  - Enjoy an afternoon of beautiful chamber music, featuring masterworks by Antonin Dvořák, and a festive sing-along of traditional Christmas Carols!
  - **Performers:** Don Kirkpatrick (violin), Clark Potter (viola), Austin Bennett (cello), and Grant Mack (piano)



- **Southwest Washington Symphony and Symphony Chorale Christmas Concerts**
  - **Saturday, December 13 @ 7pm**
  - **Sunday, December 14 @ 3pm**
  - **Longview Community Church**



- **Cocoa, Cookies, & Carols, Sunday December 14, 6-8pm**
  - **ALL are welcome and invited!**
  - **YOU bring the cookies, WE provide the Cocoa & Carols!**

- **Children's Christmas Pageant, Sunday December 21, 10:30am**
  - **All children welcome and encouraged to participate**
  - **Pageant Rehearsal and Festive Family Breakfast @ 9am**



- **Christmas Eve, Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist, 12/24, 4pm**
- **Christmas Day, Family-Friendly Eucharist, 12/25, 10:30am**

### November FISH Report:

Our FISH team was able to serve 165 families this past food distribution November 18 to 21. Like all other FISH churches, we agreed to up our number of families by 20 due to the recent concerns about SNAP. We had three new volunteers this time, who were friends of parishioners, including Ashley Dockery, whose children attend St. Rose with Fr. Nic and Krista's girls. Special thanks to Tosha BigEagle and Katherine Beauregard for making 50 Christmas cookie kits to give families with children. They were a big hit!! Finally, four individuals donated a total of 17 turkeys, so we were able to share them with the families! Thank you to everyone who helped make it a great week!!--Your FISH team: Gretchen Niemi, Robin Swecker and Judy Swanson.