

# The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

## January 18, 2026

### 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!**



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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: \_\_\_\_\_



# All glory be to God on high

*The Hymnal 1982, #421*



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace on earth from  
2 O Lamb of God, Lord Je - sus Christ, whom God the Fa - ther  
3 You on - ly are the Ho - ly One, who came for our sal -



heav - en, and God's good will un - fail - ing - ly be  
gave us, who for the world was sac - ri - ficed up -  
va - tion, and on - ly you are God's true Son, who



to all peo - ple giv - en. We bless, we wor - ship you, we raise for  
on the cross to save us; and, as you sit at God's right hand and  
was be - fore cre - a - tion. You on - ly, Christ, as Lord we own and,



your great glo - ry thanks and praise, O God, Al-might - y Fa - ther.  
we for judg - ment there must stand, have mer - cy, Lord, up - on us.  
with the Spi - rit, you a - lone share in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

Words: Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984), rev.; para. of *Gloria in excelsis*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Allein Gott in der Höh*, melody att. Nikolaus Decius (1490?-1541); harm. Hieronymous Praetorius (1560?-1629).

## **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 January 18, 2026**

<b>Presider</b>	The Rev. Nic Mather
<b>Musician</b>	Riki Davis
<b>Acolyte</b>	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Becky Edmiston, Brittany Forbes
<b>Reader</b>	John Edmiston, Katherine Beauregard
<b>Greeter</b>	Janice Stixrud
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	Dee Taylor, Garry Beauregard
<b>Usher</b>	Lloyd Solon
<b>Verger</b>	Garry Beauregard
<b>Vestry Presence</b>	Heather Niemi, Katherine Beauregard
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Michele Waite

## Glory to God

Carl Haywood

## The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture)*

A Reading from **Isaiah 49:1-7**

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow,  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
But I said, "I have labored in vain,  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD,  
and my reward with my God."

And now the **LORD** says,  
    who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
    and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the **LORD**,  
    and my God has become my strength--  
he says,  
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
    to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
    and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
    that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Thus says the **LORD**,  
    the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
    the slave of rulers,  
“Kings shall see and stand up,  
    princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the **LORD**, who is faithful,  
    the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

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

### **Psalm 40:1-12**

- 1 I waited patiently upon the **LORD**; \***  
    **he stooped to me and heard my cry.**
- 2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and  
    clay;\***  
    **he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.**

**3 He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God; \***  
    many shall see, and stand in awe,  
    and put their trust in the LORD.

**4 Happy are they who trust in the LORD! \***  
    they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

**5 Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!  
how great your wonders and your plans for us! \***  
    there is none who can be compared with you.

**6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! \***  
    but they are more than I can count.

**7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure \***  
    (you have given me ears to hear you);

**8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, \***  
    and so I said, "Behold, I come.

**9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: \***  
    'I love to do your will, O my God;  
    your law is deep in my heart."

**10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; \***  
    behold, I did not restrain my lips;  
    and that, O LORD, you know.

**11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; \***  
    I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the  
    great congregation.

**12 You are the LORD;**  
    **do not withhold your compassion from me; \***  
    **let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.**

A Reading from **1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 **John 1:29-42**  
**Glory to you, O Christ.**

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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:* God of strength and resoluteness, you have sought to make yourself known to us and to show us your loving care. Hear our collective hopes and prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Reader:* Encourage the truth speakers and prophets of your church, that we might see the Christ in our midst. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with the leaders of our nation. Hold them accountable to their commitments to liberty, peace and unity. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us the wisdom, strength, and perseverance to make difficult decisions for the welfare of creation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heal those in pain or illness. Bring joy to the sorrowful, hope to the forlorn. Grant a path to your promise to all who have lost their way. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nunnelee, D. Rowley, Mark Haase, Lois Larson, Joe Castro, and those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide us as we seek to become icons of Christ and builders of the kingdom of God in all the places our lives take us. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace to the dying and comfort to those who grieve. Grant us all a new life in your eternal presence. Especially we pray for those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause*. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* Your son lived and died as one of us that we might know the surest path to the life we are created for. Let the light of his love shine in our lives, dispelling all darkness and leading us ever forward into your glory. **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](http://sslv.org)*

### **Offertory**

**Bright and Glorious is the Sky**

Arr Patricia Hurlburt

Bell Choir

## **Eucharistic Prayer 2**

*(Please stand in body or spirit)*

*Celebrant* The Lord 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.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:



Ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven 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.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

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

*Cantor or Choir*

Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the The disciples knew the Lord Jesus } in the

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The

bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -

*Congregation*

mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be The dis -

known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the  
 ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }  
*Cantor or Choir*  
 bread. One bod - y are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though  
*Congregation*  
 man - y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord  
 The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord  
 Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the bread.

Music: Gary James (b. 1957). Copyright © 1992 Morningstar Music Publishers.

## The Invitation to the Table

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 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. You may also place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. Know that ALL who God calls to the table are welcome here this day.*

# Let us break bread together on our knees

*The Hymnal 1982, #325*

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;  
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;

*Refrain*

when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

1 2

3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

*Refrain*

when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: *Let Us Break Bread*, Afro-American spiritual; arr. and harm. David Hurd (b. 1950).

## **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 stand 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 Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God, strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **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)!*

## God Sends Us Forth



1. God sends us forth to love and serve,  
2. Nour - ished by Christ, our Word and Bread,  
3. Called to the ones the world ig - nores—  
4. So, with the cross to lead the way,

Make known God's name and live God's word,  
Burn - ing with love and Spir - it - led,  
Hun - gry and thirst - y, weak and poor—  
Let us go forth in peace to - day,

Mir - ror God's love, re - flect God's grace Till  
Sent to em - brace a world in need, To  
Let us bear Christ, who heals all pain And  
And to the ends of earth make known The

all have seen the Sav - ior's face.  
make God known in word and deed.  
com - forts those bowed down by shame.  
sav - ing love our God has shown.

Text: Tony E. Alonso, b.1980  
Tune: GAILHAC, LM; Tony E. Alonso, b.1980  
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## **Community Invitations:**

- **January Newcomers Class continues today!**
- **Reel Theology**
  - Sundays 1/18, 2/1 @ 6pm-Tonight we are watching: All Saints
- **Ecumenical Service of Community Care: Nourishing ourselves in community as we nourish our neighbors**
  - Tuesday, January 27th | 6:30pm
  - First Christian Church | 2000 E Kessler Blvd, Longview
  - Join an ecumenical space for worship, reflection, collective commitment, and hope as we answer Christ's call to feed and care for our community. As our government cuts community resources and targets our most vulnerable neighbors, we come together as followers of Jesus to reground in the roots of our tradition - responding to the oppression of empire with radical practices of community care, resource sharing, and remembering our belovedness - which no empire can take away from us.
  - Bring non-perishable, shelf stable food items to support local food banks. We will offer these items during a ritual portion of this service.
  - We will also take an offering for the Ethnic Support Council to support their critical work caring for our immigrant neighbors in Cowlitz County.
- **The Path, A Bible Study Program**
  - Begins Sunday February 1 @ 9am
  - Meets most Sundays for 12 weeks, you can attend as often or as infrequent as your schedule allows
  - Uses The Path: A Journey Through the Bible, study guide taking excerpts from Genesis through Revelation to bring forward the consistent themes of our faith as experienced through the text (The Path uses excerpts from the NRSV). Can be purchased at Amazon or Forward Movement (Episcopal Publisher).
- **Ash Wednesday, February 18 @ Noon**
- **Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, & Reaffirmation Class**
  - Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 25 @ 6pm
  - Learning about our faith and preparation for baptism (Easter) or a formal commitment to the Episcopal Church with our Bishop (visiting on Sunday April 12)

## **Parish Directory**

We are updating the parish directory . If you have a new address or phone number or just want to change your picture, please send the information to the office by January 19th. New directories will be available at the Annual Meeting.

## **Annual Meeting Reports**

The Annual Meeting is coming up and that means it is time to let everyone know how your ministry is doing. Please send your annual report to the office, prior to January 19th.

### **Annual Meeting, Sunday January 25 @ 5pm**

You will see this invitation in several formats over the course of the next week, whether in the weekly Rector's Notes, in a separate email reminder, and in service both today and next Sunday, because I firmly believe in the power of our Annual Meeting to further grow our community as we come together to celebrate the year that has come before as we look forward to the year ahead of us.

#### ***The Annual Meeting is for ALL who call St. Stephen's their church.***

Whether you have been attending for a matter of weeks or you have been a member for years, all who call this place theirs are invited, welcome, and encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting in order to make deeper connections with your fellow congregants.

We break bread together over a potluck meal that is shared among the members of your assigned table (tables are hosted by vestry members, who will call you and ask if you are able to contribute to the meal for the 8 people at your table, and only your table). We share stories of the past year in our life together. We elect members to represent us, both throughout the year on Vestry, and at our annual Diocesan convention. And we discuss our budget and finances and how we choose to use the blessings of our stewardship, income sources, and legacy giving to support the work and ministry of our church.

Without you, the Annual Meeting is just that much less than it possibly could be, so I really want to encourage you to attend this year and help us fill the parish hall and all 10 of our new tables so we can celebrate together.

In God's Peace & Love,

Fr. Nic