

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 1, 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!**



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: _____



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 crea - - tors of
 jus - tice and joy, yes, God will de - light
 when we are crea - - tors of jus - tice,
 jus - tice and joy!

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 February 1, 2026

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	Niko Hanberg, Ella Mather
Altar Guild	Gretchen Niemi, Heather Niemi, Heather Karnofski
Reader	Ladonna Stacey, Mady Glaser
Greeter	Cheryl Karr
Chalice Bearer	Krista Mather, Lloyd Solon
Usher	Don Willows
Verger	Mary Hoover
Vestry Presence	Gretchen Niemi, Rob Painter-Johnson
Coffee Hour	Gretchen Moore

Glory to God

Carl Haywood

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; 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 **Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

Psalm 15

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? ***
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, ***
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;**
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, ***
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong ***
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, ***
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things ***
shall never be overthrown.

A Reading from **1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

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



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

(Please stand in body or spirit)

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Matthew 5:1-12**
Glory to you, O Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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 blessings hear our prayers and act swiftly to answer them as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Embolden your church, that it might fearlessly accept its mission to bring light and love into the world without judgement. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep the needs of the most vulnerable foremost in the minds and in the intentions of our elected leaders and public servants, that the dignity of all may be preserved and the welfare of our whole nation increased. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to ground our choices in our concerns for those most impacted by climate change and in the need to preserve the abundance of creation for future generations. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shower your blessings on this congregation that they might know and feel your presence in their lives and act in confidence of your love for the good of all. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring wholeness and peace to all who suffer, free them from their afflictions and instill in them the hope of Christ. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nunnelee, D. Rowley, Mark Haase, Joe Castro, Callen Beauregard, Chipper Leonard, and those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcome in your embrace all those who have died and so guide our lives that we may confidently look forward to our reunion with them and you. Especially we pray for those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause*. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God of true wisdom who through Christ has given us the model of human life, so inspire us that we might live always in the joy of our salvation and greet with joy the day of you coming. **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



Offertory

Blessed are You
By Craig Courtney
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.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

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 disci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus } in the

1. *Congregation* | 2. *Cantor or Choir*

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 Jesus, in the break - ing of the
ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus } in the break - ing of the

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.***

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.

We Are Many Parts / Muchos Miembros Hay

Refrain

We are man - y parts, we are all one bod - y,
Mu-chos miem-bros hay, en un so - lo cuer - po;

and the gifts we have we are giv-en to share.
nues-tros do - nes son pa - ra dar y ser - vir.

May the Spir-it of love make us one in - deed;
Que el Es - pí-ri - tu de Dios nos u - na en su a - mor;

one, the love that we share, one, our hope in de -
com - par - tien - do el do - lor, com - ba - tien - do el te -

spair, one, the cross that we bear.
mor, com - pla - cien - do al Se - ñor.

Last time

Verses

1. God of all, we look to you, we would be your
 2. So my pain is pain for you, in your joy is
 3. All you seek - ers, great and small, seek the great - est
 1. *Oh Se - ñor, que - re - mos ser ser - vi - do - res*
 2. *Mi do - lor te due - le_a tí; si te go - zas,*
 3. *Quie - nes bus - can de ver - dad su ma - yor fe -*

D.C.

ser - vants true, let us be your love to all the world.
 my joy, too; all is brought to - geth - er in the Lord.
 gift of all; if you love, then you will know the Lord.
por do - quier; y a la hu - ma - ni - dad lle - var tu a - mor.
soy fe - liz; to - do se u - ne en tor - no al Se - ñor.
li - ci - dad: a - men y co - no - ce - rán a Dios.

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)!

Blest are the pure in heart

The Hymnal 1982, #656

1 Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the
 2 The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to
 3 he to the low - ly soul will still him - self im - part and
 4 Lord, we thy pres - ence seek; may ours this bless - ing be; give

se - ret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's a - bode.
 dwell in low - li - ness with us, our pat - tern and our King;
 for his dwell-ing and his throne will choose the pure in heart.
 us a pure and low - ly heart, a tem - ple fit for thee.

Words: Sts. 1 and 3, John Keble (1792-1866), alt.; sts. 2 and 4, William John Hall (1793-1861), alt. Music: *Franconia*, melody Johann Balthasar König (1691-1758); adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870).

Community Invitations:

- **The Path: Bible Study, Sundays @ 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. Can be purchased at Amazon or Forward Movement.
- **Southwest Washington Symphony Family Concert, February 1, 3pm at the Columbia Theater, FREE**
- **Reel Theology**
 - Today - Sunday 2/1 @ 6pm- we will watch the Pixar animated film **Elemental**
- **Mardi Gras Picnic!--Sunday February 15 @ Coffee Hour**
 - Bring your most decadent dish to share!
- **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)

FISH Sunday

Our FISH team was able to serve 163 families during our latest distribution from January 20 to 23. We had our wonderful volunteers assisting us, and we worked longer days to make sure everyone who was waiting was served. We appreciate all donations from the congregation, especially bags for shopping, both paper and reusable bags. In March we will focus on Easter, so baking products and desserts, salad dressings and side dishes for family dinners would be appreciated! Thank you to everyone who assists in any way.

–Robin Swecker, Judy Swanson and Gretchen Niemi.

Help Those Serving in Minneapolis

Pastor Ingrid Rasmussen of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis has been at the center of much of the recent unrest in Minneapolis, responding to the needs of her neighbors, both in the immediate neighborhood where her church is centered (just a couple of blocks from where the George Floyd murder occurred and the 2020 protests launched from), and those of the wider Twin Cities. Included in that response has been assisting businesses directly impacted by ICE raids with continuing to meet rent payments for businesses that have either been closed out of fear or closed due to the overwhelming presence of ICE and those both arriving as legal observers and those arriving as counter-protestors. Her church has also been offering direct support for legal assistance for those immediately impacted by ICE activity in Minneapolis. This effort to protect her church community, which is filled with immigrants, has drained their available discretionary funds for the year just in this one month of 2026.

If you are able, you are invited today to make a special offering to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis to continue supporting their efforts to protect their church members and neighbors from losing their businesses and from unjust legal persecution.

In a recent facebook post, Pastor Ingrid wrote: "We will keep helping because we believe in manna—that enough will show for today and enough will show up for tomorrow."

Why support Pastor Ingrid and Holy Trinity? Pastor Ingrid is a good friend of the Henricksens, having been a seminary classmate of Lauren's, giving us here at St. Stephen's a very real and tangible connection to someone who is doing the work of Christ in the midst of the chaos that is ongoing in that community.

You can make a donation on their website: <https://htlcmpls.org/donate>

You can also make a donation via venmo: @holytrinitympls

You may also leave a check with "HTLCMPLS" in the memo line or cash in a marked envelope and we will distribute those funds this week.