

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 8, 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: _____



Gather Us In



1. Here in this place our new light is stream - ing,
 2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,
 3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,
 We are the old— who yearn for your face,
 Here we will take the bread of new birth,



See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.
 Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,
 Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;
 Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,
 Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 Give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.

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 8, 2026

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Preacher	Mary Lyons
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	Esther Henricksen, Mile Henricksen
Altar Guild	Robin Swecker
Reader	Lloyd Solon, Katherine Beauregard
Greeter	Karen Miller
Chalice Bearer	Gary Beauregard, Dee Taylor
Usher	Mike Claxton
Verger	Gary Beauregard
Vestry Presence	Katherine Beauregard, Mary Lyons
Coffee Hour	Lucy Claxton

Glory to God

Carl Haywood

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture)

A Reading from **Isaiah 58:1-9a**

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

“Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the **LORD**?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the **LORD** shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the **LORD** will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

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

Psalm 112:1-9

1 Hallelujah!

Happy are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!

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

A Reading from **1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love him"—

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

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

Gospel Processional (before reading) & Recessional (after reading)
(Please stand in body or spirit)



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

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

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Matthew 5:13-20**
Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

Homily

Mary Lyons

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: Creating God, you have made us in your image that we might reflect your glory, hear us now as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Be present in and guide your church that it might always stand for the way that leads to life and light. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant your wisdom and mercy to all who hold authority in our lives that their leadership might benefit all people and bring about a just and equitable world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We offer to you the deepest needs and longings of our own hearts, help us to grow into the people you created us to be and to take up the work you have given us to do. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to behold the glory of your Creation that we might take up our responsibilities to preserve and protect it with joy. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Extend your healing presence to all who suffer and restore them to a sense of wholeness. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Reed Nunnelee, D. Rowley, Mark Haase, Joe Castro, Callen Beauregard, Chipper Leonard, Shannon Nichols, and those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcome all who have died into your loving presence and bring us also into that new kingdom in your new age. Especially we pray for Bill Norvell, and those we now name either silently or aloud. *pause*. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: You have offered us the gift of grace and reconciliation through the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Let us live into your Son's example that we might also know abundant life in your presence. All we ask, we ask through

our Lord and intercessor, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns eternally. **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



Bring Forth the Kingdom

Verses



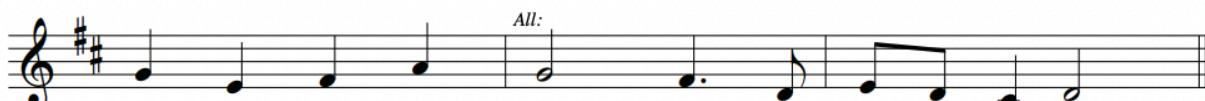
Cantor:

1. You are salt for the earth, O peo - ple:
2. You are a light on the hill, O peo - ple:
3. You are a seed of the Word, O peo - ple:
4. We are a blest and a pil - grim peo - ple:



All: *Cantor:*

Salt for the King-dom of God! Share the fla - vor of
Light for the Cit - y of God! Shine so ho - ly and
Bring forth the King-dom of God! Seeds of mer - cy and
Bound for the King-dom of God! Love our jour-ney and



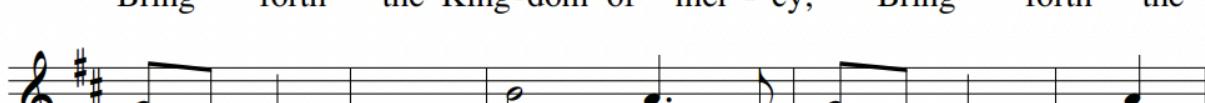
All:

life, O peo - ple: Life in the King-dom of God!
bright, O peo - ple: Shine for the King-dom of God!
seeds of jus - tice, Grow in the King-dom of God!
love our home-land: Love is the King-dom of God!

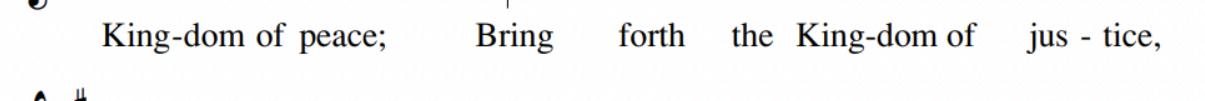
Refrain



Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy, Bring forth the



King-dom of peace; Bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice,



Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

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:

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 disciples knew the Lord Jesus } 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 Jesus } 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.

Je - sus }

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.

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

3

1. As a fire is meant for burn-ing With a
 2. We are learn-ers; we are teach-ers; We are
 3. As a green bud in the spring-time Is a

bright and warm-ing flame, So the Church is meant for
 pil-grims on the way. We are seek-ers; we are
 sign of life re-newed, So may we be signs of

mis-sion, Giv-ing glo-ry to God's name. As we
 giv-ers; We are ves-sels made of clay. By our
 one-ness Mid earth's peo-ples, man-y hued. As a

wit-ness to the gos-pel, We would
 gen-tle, lov-ing ac-tions, We would
 rain-bow lights the heav-ens When a

build a bridge of care, Join-ing hands a-cross the
 show that Christ is light. In a hum-ble, lis-tning
 storm is past and gone, May our lives re-flect the

na-tions, Find-ing neigh-bors ev-ry-where.
 Spir-it, We would live to God's de-light.
 ra-diance Of God's new and glor-iouss dawn.

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, © 1992, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: BEACH SPRING, 8 7 8 7 D; *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. by Marty Haugen, 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.**

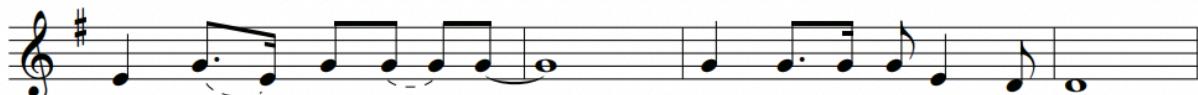
Closing Hymn

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)!

This Little Light of Mine



1. This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine,
2. Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine,
3. Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine,



This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine;
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine;
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine;



This lit - tle light of mine I'm gon - na let it shine,
Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine,
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm gon - na let it shine,



Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: Harry Dixon Loes, 1895–1965
Tune: Harry Dixon Loes, 1895–1965; harm by Horace Clarence Boyer, 1935–2009

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.
- **Mardi Gras Picnic!--Sunday February 15 @ Coffee Hour**
 - Bring your most decadent dish to share!
- **Ash Wednesday, February 18 @ Noon**
 - Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist
- **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)
- **Holy Week**
 - March 29–Palm Sunday 10:30am
 - March 31–Renewal of Ordination Vows 7pm
 - April 2–Maundy Thursday 6pm
 - April 3–Good Friday Noon
 - April 4–The Great Vigil of Easter (with Baptisms) 6pm
 - April 5–Easter Sunday 10:30am
 - Easter Sunday Brunch Potluck: Please bring a dish as follows:
 - Last Name A-H: Dessert
 - Last Name I-O: Main Dish
 - Last Name P-W: Side Dish
- **Bishop Phil LaBelle Visitation: Sunday April 12 @ 10:30am**
 - Confirmations, Receptions, & Reaffirmations
 - Festive Coffee Hour to follow!