

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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: _____



Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus

The Hymnal 1982, #495



1 Hail, thou once de - spis - ed Je - sus! Hail, thou Gal - i -
2 Pas - chal Lamb, by God ap - point - ed, all our sins on
3 Je - sus, hail! en - throned in glo - ry, there for ev - er
*4 Wor - ship, hon - or, power, and bless - ing thou art wor - thy



le - an King! Thou didst suf - fer to re - lease us;
thee were laid: by al - might - y love a - noint - ed,
to a - bide; all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore thee,
to re - ceive; high - est prais - es, with - out ceas - ing,



thou didst free sal - va - tion bring. Hail, thou u - ni - ver - sal
thou hast full a - tone - ment made. All thy peo - ple are for -
seat - ed at thy Fa - ther's side. There for sin - ners thou art
right it is for us to give. Help, ye bright an - gel - ic



Sa - vior, bear - er of our sin and shame! By thy mer - it
giv - en through the vir - tue of thy blood: o - pened is the
plead - ing: there thou dost our place pre - pare; ev - er for us
spi - rits, all your no - blest an - thems raise; help to sing our



we find fa - vor: life is giv - en through thy Name
gate of hea - ven, re - con - ciled are we with God.
in - ter - ced - ing, till in glo - ry we ap - pear.
Sa - vior's mer - its, help to chant Em - man - uel's praise!

Words: John Bakewell (1721-1819) and Martin Madan (1726-1790), alt. Music: *In Babilone*, melody from *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradanseu*, 1710; harm. Roy. F. Kehl (b. 1935).

The Liturgy of the Word

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 September 27, 2026

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	
Altar Guild	Lisa Harrington, Becky Edmiston
Reader	Mary Hoover, Mary Lyons
Greeter	Mary Lyons
Chalice Bearer	John Edmiston, Krista Mather
Usher	Mike Claxton
Verger	Garry Beauregard
Vestry Presence	Katherine Beauregard, Mike Claxton
Coffee Hour	Gretchen Moore

We Are Marching / Siyahamba

We are march - ing* in the light of God, we are
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -

1. march-ing in the light of God. hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
2. march-ing in the light of, the hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen, kha - God. khos'.

We are march - ing, Si - ya - ham - ba,
light of God. nyen' kwen - khos'. We are march-ing, Si - ya - ham - ba,
march-ing, we are ham - ba, si - ya -

Oo
march-ing, ham - ba, march-ing, ham-ba, we are march-ing in the light of God.
si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.

*Alternate text: dancing, singing, praying

Text: South African
Tune: South African
© 1984, Utryck, Walton Music Corporation, agent

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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 Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.**
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.**
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.**
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.**
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.**
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.**
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.**

A Reading from **Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

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

You are invited to stand in body or spirit.



The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Matthew 21:23-32**
Glory to you, O Christ.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

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

Homily

Rob Painter-Johnson

Nicene Creed *You are invited to stand in body or spirit*

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Celebrant: Almighty God, hear the prayers of your people and come swiftly to aid us as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Grant you church wisdom to bring about the beloved community through your commitment to individual and communal transformation and redemption. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant our nation strength and forbearance to peacefully resolve our differences and to live in amity with our neighbors. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant an abiding faith and discerning hearts to all of us gathered to hear these words; that we might live into your will and be your people. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give to us clarity, that we might perceive and comprehend the gravity of the global issues which we face, and a determination to work together to implement sustainable and equitable solutions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lift the burdens of those who are ill, those who face overwhelming challenges, and those who are fearful. Bring them healing and peace. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, D. Rowley, Marge Ofstun, Holly Miller Spieth, Jesse Lucas, Anna Rangel, Charley, Susan Kovari, Dick Woods, and those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant peace and a welcome into your eternal grace to those who have died; and bring us to that place where with them we may all live again in your glorious kingdom. Especially we pray for those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God of power and might, your eternal essence is love. Guide us as we seek to live fully into our belovedness and grant us an answer to our prayers that fulfills our deepest longings and reflects your glory into the darkness of our lives and world. All this we ask through your Son, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme, One God, indivisible, forever and ever. **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 *(You are invited to 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

Virtual Offering Plate



Offertory

“Rejoice Greatly”
by Susan E. Geschke.
Bells

Eucharistic Prayer B

You are invited to 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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

The Sanctus acclamation is sung to conclude the introduction to the eucharistic prayer.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is
he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho -
san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into 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 disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Ann Marie Long

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

4 ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us, There-fore let us keep the

8 feast. Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le-lu - ia, Al-le - lu - ia.

The 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.***

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.

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our Head and
2. To this tem - ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord of
3. Here be - stow on all your ser - vants What they ask of
4. Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or



cor - ner-stone, Cho - sen of the Lord, and pre - cious,
 hosts, to - day; With your stead - fast lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; What they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
 Hear your serv - ants as they pray; And your full - est
 With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter
 Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion Shed in all its bright ar - ray.
 in your glo - ry Ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: *Angularis fundamentum*; 11th C.; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Tune: ST. THOMAS, 8 7 8 7 8 7; John Wade, 1711–1786

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.**

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. **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 (found at the front door)!

O love, how deep, how broad, how high

The Hymnal 1982, #448



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing
2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his
4 For us to wick - ed hands be - trayed, scourged, mocked, in
5 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he
6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so



1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions
3 dai - ly works he wrought: by words and signs and
4 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful
5 went on high to reign; for us he sent his
6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trin - i - ty whom



1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.
2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.
3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.
4 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.
5 Spi - rit here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.
6 we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt. Music: *Deus tuorum militum*, from *Antiphoner*, 1753; adapt. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.; harm. after Basil Harwood (1859-1949).

Community Invitations:

Sunday Morning Bible Study: A Deep Dive Into Romans

- Sundays @ 9am, RSVP to Fr. Nic
- ***Purchase “Into the Heart of Romans” by NT Wright***
- Read Chapter 3 for October 4

FISH Pet Food Drive, Sunday October 4

- Help us celebrate the 800th Anniversary of St. Francis' Death with a Pet Food Drive to support our FISH food pantry. Cat food and Dog food, wet or dry!

Fall Book Study: What Make You Come Alive by Lerita Coleman Brown

- 5 Wednesdays beginning **October 7, 6pm @ Scythe Brewing**, RSVP to Fr. Nic

Women's Brunch, Saturday October 17, 10am-12pm

- We are planning several women's events over the coming year with the goal of helping the women of the church get to know one another better, build connections, and create interest in an ongoing women's ministry. Our first event will be a Get-to-Know-Each-Other Brunch on October 17 from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM in the parish hall. We'll have a survey available at the brunch to learn more about what the women of the church would like to see from a women's group, including the types of activities, gatherings, and topics that interest them. We'll also ask for input on craft options for our next event.

Annual Chili Cook Off: Sunday October 25

- Please bring a Chili, a Cornbread, or a Dessert
- Award given to People's Choice for Best Chili

All Saints Sunday, Sunday November 1

Service of Remembrance, Monday November 2 @ 7pm

Noonday Prayers for an Election Day, Tuesday, November 3 @ Noon, All Saints Chapel