

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 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: _____



God of grace and God of glory

The Hymnal 1982, #594

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into four systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano accompaniment staff. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple pour thy power;
2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as - sail his ways!
3 Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to thy con - trol;
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils we de - plore;

crown thine an - cient Church's sto - ry; bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise:
shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in things and poor in soul.
let the gift of thy sal - va - tion be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
days, for the liv - ing of these days.
goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt. By permission of the author. Music: *Cwm Rhondda*, John Hughes (1873-1932).

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 October 11, 2026

Presider	The Rev. Nic Mather
Musician	Riki Davis
Acolyte	
Altar Guild	Lisa Harrington, Brittany Forbes
Reader	John Edmiston, Rob Sudar
Greeter	Mary Lyons
Chalice Bearer	Bev Finlay, Lisa Sudar
Usher	Mike Claxton
Vergar	John Edmiston
Vestry Presence	Lisa Harrington, Mary Lyons
Coffee Hour	Tosha Big Eagle

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

*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.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture.

A Reading from Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

- 1 Hallelujah!**
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD ***
or show forth all his praise?
- 3 Happy are those who act with justice ***
and always do what is right!
- 4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your**
people, *
and visit me with your saving help;
- 5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect**
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.
- 6 We have sinned as our forebears did; ***
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.
- 19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb ***
and worshiped a molten image;
- 20 And so they exchanged their Glory ***
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
- 21 They forgot God their Savior, ***
who had done great things in Egypt,
- 22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, ***
and fearful things at the Red Sea.
- 23 So he would have destroyed them,**
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

A Reading from **Philippians 4:1-9**

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,
stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes,
and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have
struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and
the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be
known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in
everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there
is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about
these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 22:1-14**
Glory to you, O Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Homily

The Rev. Nic Mather

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: Lord God, we lift our hopes and desires to you as we pray, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Reader: Be with your church; move it towards righteousness; lead it to unity in purpose and mission, and guard it from all evils. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Care for this nation and its peoples, grant us courage to face up to the ways we fall short of its promises and show us how to work together to increase liberty and dignity for all who live here. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deepen our commitment to our neighbors and open our eyes, and hearts, and hands to those in need that we might continue Christ's work among them. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Energize us for the work of creation care, that we and all future generations might experience fully the abundance of the world you created and placed us in. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fulfill the longing for healing and peace to all who suffer in any way; mend what is broken in our lives and in the lives of those we love. Especially we pray for Ron & Harriet Byrnes, D. Rowley, Marge Ofstun, Holly Miller Spieth, Jesse Lucas, Charley, Susan Kovari, Dick Woods, Wesley Paul Claxton, Tom & Bev Finlay, and those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give rest to those who have died, let them grow in your love, and deliver them and us into the resurrection of your new age. Especially we pray for those you now name either silently or aloud. *pause.* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Holy God, who knows our needs and wants better than we know ourselves, be with your people and sustain us with your promises that we might participate in your salvation. All this we ask through Jesus, your son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God now and always. **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 *Give to the virtual offering plate by scanning or online @sslv.org*

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.



Come to the Banquet

Refrain

Come to the ban - quet, come to the feast. Eat the Bread of
 life! Share in the sing - ing, share in the joy.
To verses *Last time*
 Drink the Cup of love! love! Share the joy!

Verses

1. Draw near and take the Bod - y of the
 2. Our great Re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal
 3. Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin -
 4. With heav'n - ly bread Christ makes the hun - gry

Lord, and drink with faith the Blood for you out - poured.
 Son, has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.
 cere and claim the prom - ise of sal - va - tion here.
 whole; his liv - ing wa - ter fills the thirst - ing soul.

Saved by his Bod - y, hal - lowed by his Blood, with
 He spent his life for great - est and for least. Praise
 Christ rules our hearts, and all his saints de - fends; he
 Be - fore your pres - ence, Lord, all peo - ple bow. In

souls re - fresh - ed we give our thanks to God.
 Christ the Pas - chal Vic - tim, Christ the Priest.
 gives be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.
 this your feast of love be with us now.

D.C.

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.

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

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.***

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

The Hymnal 1982, #487



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
 2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
 3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
 light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
 joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
 length; such a strength as makes _____ his guest.
 part; such a heart as joys _____ in love.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633). Music: *The Call*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

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.**

God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and 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)!

Called by Christ

Verses



1. Called by Christ, you built on the bed - rock,
2. Called by Christ, you of - fer God's chil - dren
3. Called by Christ, you thirst af - ter good - ness.



God who was faith - ful through each pass - ing year.
Food for their hun - ger and songs for the soul.
Seek - ing God's pres - ence you sure - ly will find.



Spir - it - led, you wel - come the stran - ger,
Spir - it - led, you look to the fu - ture,
Spir - it - led, you plant for the har - vest,



Prom - ise of new life a - wak - en - ing here.
hand to your la - bor and eye on the goal.
Peace, love, and jus - tice for all hu - man - kind.

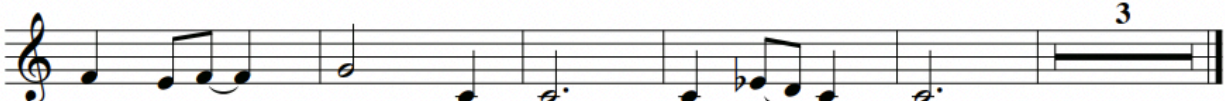
Refrain



Sing, sing, sing of God's good-ness. Cel - e - brate love a -



live here to - day. Share, share life in the Spir - it.



Look for God's reign and seek Je - sus' way.

Community Invitations:

Sunday Morning Bible Study: A Deep Dive Into Romans

- Sundays @ 9am, RSVP to Fr. Nic
- Read Romans Chapter 5 for October 18

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

- 5 Wednesdays continuing **October 14, 6pm @ Hop N Grape**, 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

Halloween Hospitality, Saturday 10/31, Volunteers & Candy Donations Requested!

- For the 17th year we will be hosting Halloween Hospitality at St. Stephen's for the hundreds of trick-or-treaters who descend on the Old West Side and we need donations of candy to offer! Please bring it by the office Monday-Thursday 9:30 am-4pm.
- Call Mary Lyons: 360-560-5272 with questions & to volunteer. Thanks!



Bean Soup Mix Get Together For FISH

- Tuesday, October 27, starting at 10:30 am at Baird House. Contact Gretchen at 360-270-9809 if interested! Soup and treats will be provided.

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

Please return your 2027 Pledge to the Office or in the Offering Plate by October 25



2027

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

**Following in the footsteps of Christ, I/we commit to St.
Stephen's in 2027 with an ANNUAL commitment of**

\$ _____

**I/we plan to fulfill this
annual pledge through:**

Weekly Payments []

Monthly Payments []

One-Time Annual Payment []

**I'm also interested in further conversations about
Legacy Giving []**