

SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG



August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St Stephen's is called, with God's help, to follow Jesus, and to be a source of transformation and Christian hope and inspiration to those within our community and those in our respective neighborhoods.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HOLY EUCHARIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preceding the service, a singing bowl will be rung as we prepare ourselves interiorly for worship.

GATHERING HYMN

#228 Holy Spirit, Font of Light

OPENING BLESSING

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

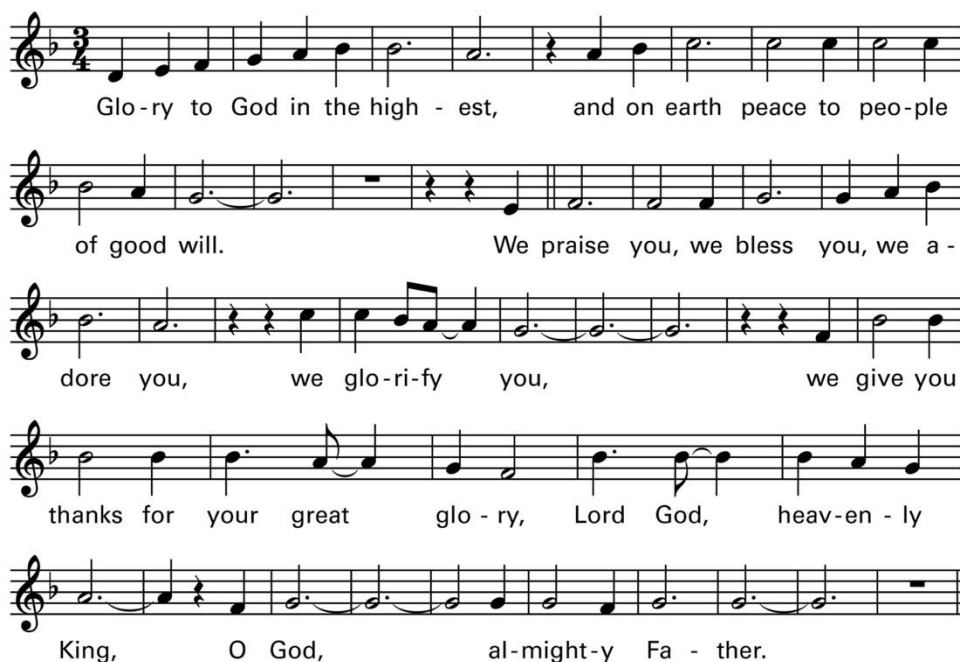
People: And blessed be **God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

"The Cloud of Unknowing" translation by Carmen Acevedo Butchur

God, to you all hearts are open, to you all longings speak, and to you no secret thing is hidden. I beg you—purify the intentions of my heart through the unspeakable gift of grace, so I can love you with all I am and praise you for all you are. Amen.

GLORIA



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a -
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you
thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.

Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you take a -
way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are seat - ed
at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer -
cy, have mer - cy on us. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Living God, you accept our stumbling faith, our misplaced answers, our false horizons, and through them build a way of peace: empower us to bind the wounds of the world and loose the debts of oppression, that all may confess the grace that is your work alone; through Jesus Christ, anointed for the world. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 138



I will give thanks to you, O God, with my
whole **heart**;
before the gods I will sing your **praise**.
I will bow down toward your holy temple and
praise your **Name**,
because of your love and **faithfulness**.*

For you have glorified your **Name**
and your word above all **things**.
When I called, you **answered me**;
you increased my strength **within me**.*

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O **God**,
when they have heard the words of your **mouth**.

They will sing of the ways of **God**,
that great is the glory of **God**.*

Although on high, God cares for the **lowly**
and perceives the haughty from **afar**.
Though I walk in the midst of **trouble**,
you keep me **safe**.*

You stretch forth your hand against the fury of
my **enemies**;
your right hand shall save me, you will make
good your purpose **for me**;
O God, your love endures for **ever**;
do not abandon the works of your **hands**.*

THE SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-8

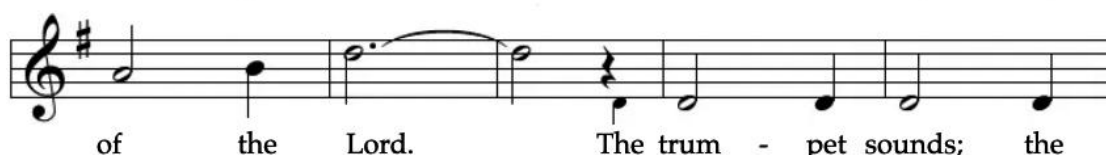
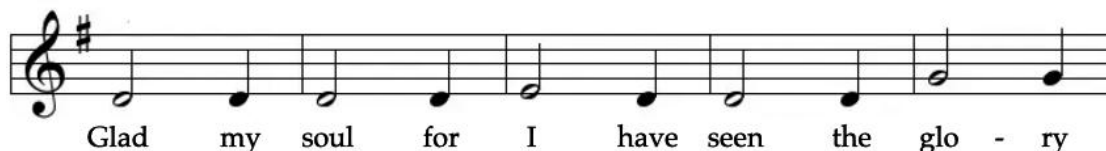
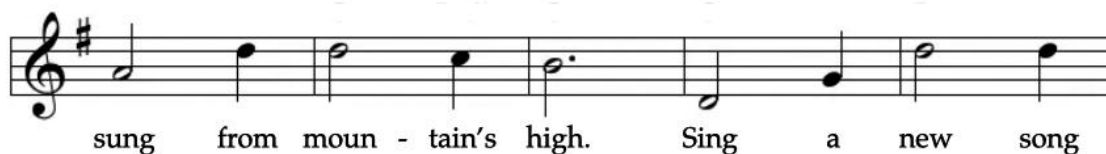
I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Refrain



Clergy: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Clergy: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE HOMILY

NICENE CREED

Enriching Our Worship.

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

V. We long for your kingdom O God. **R. Put a new song in our hearts.**

Those in need of healing and support:

Noah, Kris, Randy, Peyton, London, John, Kathie, Tabitha, Nancy, Esther, Samson, Ann, Tom, Garry, Jacki, Linda, Kay, Shannon, Tiffany, Colin, Karin, Libby, Terry, Russell, Jessica, Kim, Andrew, Jessica, Casey, Vera, Michael, Kadie, Vance, Steve, Tonya, Stephanie, Nathan, Judy, Greg, Mary, Thea, Jill, Bishop Gretchen

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

THE PEACE

WELCOME SONG

All Are Welcome



Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions
live. A place where saints and chil - dren and tell how
heard And loved and treas - ured, taught and claimed as
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of
faith and vault of grace. Here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
faith and songs of grace. Let this house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:
All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

OFFERTORY

To give online, please see the QR code in the back of the bulletin

OFFERTORY HYMN

The Desert Shall Rejoice



The des - ert shall re - joice and blos - som as a rose: 1. It shall
2. For the
3. For the
4. For the



blos - som a - bun - dant - ly and re - joice with praise and sing - ing.
ears of the deaf shall hear And the blind, their eyes be o - pened.
tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with glad - ness.
ground will be - come a pool and the dry land springs of wa - ter.

DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all crea - tures here be -



-low; praise God a - bove, ye hea - ven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

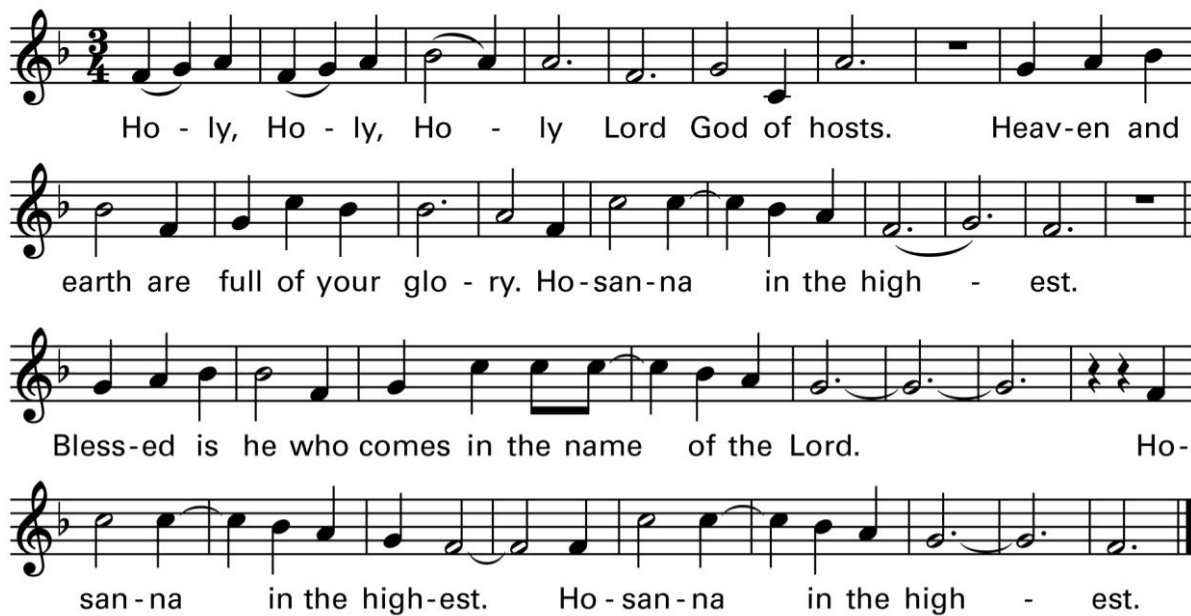
THE PREFACE

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.**

SANCTUS



THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 FRACTION

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ is the Host of this Holy Feast: All are welcome to receive God's blessing. You may choose to receive wine from the little cups or from the common chalice. To receive from the chalice, please help guide the cup by grasping the bottom of the cup. Please do not dip your wafer (intinct) into the cup. Gluten-free hosts are available—please mention your need for a gluten-free host to the clergy distributing the Body of Christ when you approach to receive Holy Communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

Joy Shall Come



Joy shall come e - ven to the wil - der - ness, and the parched



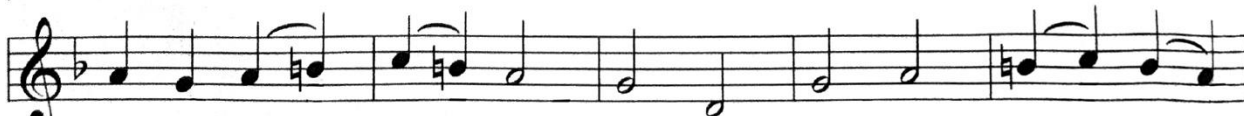
land shall then know great glad - ness; as the rose,



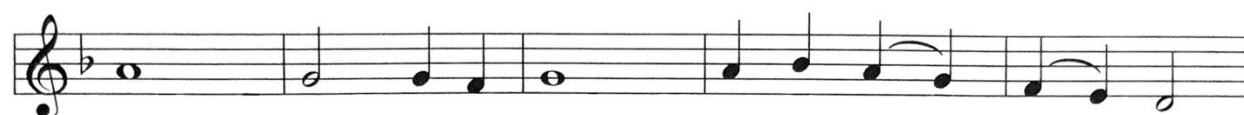
as the rose shall des - erts blos - som, des - erts



like a gar - den blos - som. For liv - ing springs



shall give cool wa - ter, in the des - ert streams shall



flow; for liv - ing springs shall give cool wa - ter,



in the des - ert streams shall flow.

COMMUNION HYMN

One Bread, One Body

Refrain

One bread, — one bod - y, —

— one Lord of all, — one cup of

bles - ing which we bless. — And we, — though

man - y, — through - out the earth, We are one

bod - y in this one — Lord. —

1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the
3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and

1. free, wom - an or man, —
2. works, one in the Lord —
3. grown, gath - ered to one —

to Refrain

1. — no more. — One
2. — of all. — One
3. — for all. — One

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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 sing your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

PARISH PRAYER CENTER

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

#522 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

SENDING

The People's Response: Thanks be to God!



Thanks to all those who serve in St. Stephen's liturgical ministries!

SATURDAY

Eucharistic Ministers

Karen Williams | Ken Mewhinney

Usher

Mary Hedrick

SUNDAY

Eucharistic Ministers

Philip Johnston | Brody Knowles

Ushers

Vanita and Glenn Davis

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Rev. Elaine Pitzer, Parish Deacon: evpitzer@aol.com

Alayna Biersdorff, Lay Pastor for Formation and Administration:

alayna@ststephens-spokane.com | 509.703.2851

St. Martha's Altar Guild

Pam Bernardo | Karen Bushnell | Vanita Davis | Lyla Henderson | The Henry Family

Suzy Jefferies | Lisa Johnston, President | Meg Jones | Laura Lindsey | Paula Oty

Mary Lou Redmond | Lolita Sutton | Pam Strickland | Karen Williams

St. Stephen's Vestry

Sheryll Shepard, Sr. Warden

Tim Farley, Jr. Warden

Greg Stevens, Jr. Warden

Karen Bushnell

Mary Hedrick
Scarlett Hepworth
Charlotte Lamp
Kate Mietus

Karen Williams
Karen Winston
Kathleen Henry, Treasurer
Stuart Hales, Clerk

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