



The Season after **Pentecost**

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

THE FEAST OF BLANDINA AND HER COMPANIONS, THE MARTYRS OF LYONS :177



Saint Blandina (French: *Blandine*, 162–177 AD) was a **Christian martyr** who died in **Lugdunum** (modern Lyon, France) during the reign of Emperor **Marcus Aurelius**.

Context

In the first two centuries of the Christian era, it was the local Roman officials who were largely responsible for the persecution of Christians. In the second century, the emperors treated Christianity as a local problem to be dealt with by their subordinates.^[2] The number and severity of persecutions of Christians in various locations of the empire seemingly increased during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. The extent to which Marcus Aurelius himself directed, encouraged, or was aware of these persecutions is unclear and much debated by historians.^[3]

Traditional history

The traditional account regarding Blandina is reported by **Eusebius** in his **Historia Ecclesiastica**.... Cont pg11

Welcome and Announcements:

9:30 Wed. June 2nd, 2021

Opening Acclamation:

BCP p. 355

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider 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.

Gloria in Excelsis

(Words found in BCP p. 356)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day:

BCP p. 357

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

(BCP p. 224)

People **Almighty God, who gave such courage and endurance to Blandina and her companions that by their deaths many hearts were turned to you; Grant that we, in accordance with their example, may also gladly endure all that is required of us as we witness to you in our own day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Lesson

A reading from the book of the **1 Peter 1:3-9**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 126

In convertendo

(Read aloud in unison)

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 14:32-42

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People: **Glory to you Lord Christ**

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a

third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Reader The Gospel of the Lord
People Praise to you Lord Christ

HOMILY

Nicene Creed: *(Said aloud by all, in unison)* *BCP p. 358*

**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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man.

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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 Form IV:

Leader: *Let us pray for the Church and for the world.*

*Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for our Bishops Michael and Jennifer; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer for *The Diocese of Cape Coast – The Church of the Province of West Africa*; in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for *Christ The King, in Tucson* and for our Native American neighbors, especially the Apache and Pascua Yaqui who call this part of Arizona their home.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.*

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them*

may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Presider: *Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your
will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Confession of Sin

Leader: *Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (The people stand, sit, or kneel.)*

All: 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.

Absolution

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace:

Presider: *The peace of the Lord be always with you*

All: And also with you.

The Offertory

Presider: *Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name.*

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

Then the Celebrant continues

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant..

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said,

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Mothers, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant : *As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,*

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread:

(Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept)

Presider: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia!**

Presider: 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 and with thanksgiving.

Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive the bread. Please observe social distancing. Extend your arm, palm open facing up to receive the bread. Move to the side 6ft to lower/raise your mask, eat the bread, replace your mask, and return to your seat.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayers, and Blessings

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: *Let us pray.*

All: O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always **Amen.**

Dismissal

Presider: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: **We are called to love and serve.**

Presider: Let us go forth, rejoicing in God's Spirit, alleluia, alleluia!

People: **Thanks be to God,! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Cont. from front

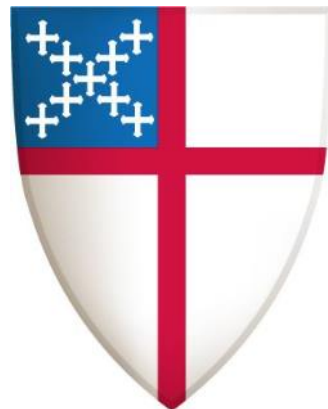
She belongs to the band of [martyrs of Lyon](#) who, after some of their number had endured frightful [tortures](#), suffered martyrdom in 177 in the reign of [Marcus Aurelius](#). Almost all we know of Blandina comes from a letter sent from the Church of Lyon to the Churches of Asia Minor.^[4] Eusebius gives significant space of her life and death in his book as he quotes from the aforementioned epistle to [Asia Minor](#).^[5] The fanaticism of the Roman populace in Lyon had been excited [against the Christians](#) so that the latter, when they ventured to show themselves publicly, were harassed and ill-treated.^[6]

While the imperial [legate](#) was away, the [chiliarch](#), a military commander, and the [duumvir](#), a civil magistrate, threw a number of Christians, who confessed their faith, into prison. When the legate returned, the imprisoned believers were brought to trial. Among these Christians was Blandina, a [slave](#), who had been taken into custody along with her master, also a Christian. Her companions greatly feared that on account of her bodily frailty she might not remain steadfast under torture. But although the legate caused her to be tortured in a horrible manner, so that even the executioners became exhausted "as they did not know what more they could do to her", still she remained faithful and repeated to every question "I am a Christian, and we commit no wrongdoing."^[6]

Through fear of torture slaves had testified against their masters that the Christians when assembled committed cannibalism and incest, and the legate desired to wring confession of this misconduct from the Christian prisoners. In his report to the [emperor](#) the legate stated that those who held to their Christian belief were to be executed and those who denied their faith were to be released, and the legate received instructions from the Emperor Marcus Aurelius allowing the [Roman citizens](#) who persisted in the faith to be executed by beheading,^[7] but those without citizenship were to be tortured. Blandina was therefore subjected to new tortures with a number of companions in the town's [amphitheater](#) (now known as the [Amphitheatre of the Three Gauls](#)) at the time of the public games.^[6]

She was bound to a stake and wild beasts were set on her. According to legend, they did not, however, touch her. After enduring this for a number of days, in an effort to persuade her to recant, she was led into the arena to see the sufferings of her companions. Finally, as the last of the martyrs, she was [scourged](#), placed on a red-hot grate, enclosed in a net and thrown before a wild [steer](#) who tossed her into the air with his horns. In the end, she was killed with a dagger.^[6]

Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
<https://ststephensaz.org>
520-458-4432

Rector: Allison Cornell
Off. Phone: 520-458-4432
Mobile: 562-743-3784
RevAllison@ststephensaz.org

Parish Administrator
Mark Sowards
Off. Phone 520-458-4432
Mobile: 408-892-1062
mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org
Office Fax: 520-458-8237

Choir Director:

Cell:

Email:

Vestry Staff

Senior Warden:
Tim Holsonback

Cell: 520-459-1937
holsonback@cox.net

Junior warden:

Sherry Simon
Cell: 520-210-2026
sherrytsimon@gmail.com

Treasurer: Cheryl Stone
Mobile: 270/348-7020
cheryl.l.stone1@gmail.com

Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

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