



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 ARGULA VON GRUMBACH



Argula von Grumbach née von Stauff (1490 – c. 1564) was a Bavarian writer and noblewoman who, starting in the early 1520s, became involved in the Protestant Reformation debates going on in Germany. She became the first Protestant woman writer, publishing letters and poems promoting and defending Martin Luther as well as his co-worker Philip Melancthon and other Protestant groups. She is most known for directly challenging the University of Ingolstadt's faculty when she wrote a letter to them speaking out against the arrest of a Lutheran student. As one of the few women at the time openly speaking out her views, her writings sparked controversy and often became bestsellers, with tens of thousands of copies of her letters and poems circulating within a few years of their publication.

Early life

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Welcome and Announcements:

Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Acclamation:

BCP p. 355

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Gloria - Canticle 13

(Words found in BCP p. 90)

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; *
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.**

**Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; *
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.**

**Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you, beholding the depths; *
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.**

**Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Salutation

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

The Collect of the Day:

BCP p. 230

Presider Let us pray.

(BCP p. 230)

People: **Almighty God, who gave your servant Argula von Grumbach a spirit of wisdom and power to love your Word and to boldly draw others to its truth: Pour out that same spirit upon us, that we, knowing and loving your Holy Word, may be unashamed of Christ and may not sin against the Holy Spirit that is within us. Amen.**

The Word of God

Old Testament Lesson: A reading from the book of the **Judges 4:4-9**

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’” Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” And she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s People.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118:19-20

Confitemini Domino

(Read aloud in unison)

- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.**
- 20 "This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter."**
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.**
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.**
- 23 This is the Lord's doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**
- 24 On this day the Lord has acted; *
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**
- 25 Hosannah, Lord, hosannah! *
Lord, send us now success.**
- 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; *
we bless you from the house of the Lord.**
- 27 God is the Lord; he has shined upon us; *
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.**
- 28 "You are my God, and I will thank you; *
you are my God, and I will exalt you."**
- 29 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 7:24-29

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

People: Glory to you Lord Christ

Jesus said, “Everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you Lord Christ

Sermon

Nicene Creed: (Said aloud by all, in unison)

BCP p. 358

(Contemporary Version)

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

(BCP p. 97-98)

Leader: Help us, O God our Savior;

People: **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Leader: Look upon your congregation;

People: **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Leader: Declare your glory among the nations;

People: **And your wonders among all peoples.**

Leader: Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

People: **Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Leader: Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

People: **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for *The Diocese of Cyangugu – Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda*

People: **May God bless and keep them.**

Leader: In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *St. Philips In The Hills*.
People: **May God bless and keep them.**
Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache peoples who called this area home.
People: **For greater understanding and cooperation between us towards the common good for all.**
Leader: Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
People: **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Confession of Sin

Presider: *Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*
All: **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

Presider: *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.*

Exchange of the Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you
All **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory:

Presider: *Offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High*

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.**

Presider Continues

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

“Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

The Presider continues:

Send your Holy Spirit upon us (+) and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

And now as Jesus taught us, we pray: (Contemporary Lord’s Prayer)

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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread:

(Presider breaks the consecrated bread)

Presider: *God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.*

People: **Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: *These are the gifts of God for the People of God.*

People: **Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.**

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travelers, and Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: *Let us pray:*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: *Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be 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!**

Argula von Grumbach was born as Argula von Stauff near [Regensburg, Bavaria](#), in 1492. Her family lived in [Ehrenfels](#) castle, which was their [baronial](#) seat. The von Stauff family were [Freiherren](#), who were lords with independent jurisdiction only accountable to the Emperor, and they were among the pre-eminent leaders of [Bavarian](#) nobility.

Argula's upbringing was in a political and deeply religious household. Education and attendance at university was highly valued. Argula is thought to have learned to read fluently at a very young age. When she was ten, her father gave her an expensive and beautifully crafted [Koberger Bible](#) in German, despite [Franciscan](#) preachers discouraging it, saying [Scripture](#) would “only confuse her.” She became an avid student of the Bible, memorizing much of its contents.

At the age of sixteen, Argula joined the court in [Munich](#), where she became a [lady-in-waiting](#) to [duchess Kunigunde](#), daughter of the [Emperor Frederick III](#). The duchess was said to have a strong personality herself, passionate about politics and religion. The court as a whole was interested in spiritual affairs, so it is there that Argula's studies of the Bible could have become a serious endeavor.

Argula's adolescent life was marked by tragedy. Both her parents became ill from [plague](#) and died in 1509. Her father's brother, Hieronymus, became her guardian. He was a leading figure at court but ended up disgraced in a political scandal that led to his execution in 1516. Her outrage at his death most likely prompted her persistent loathing for violence and coercion throughout her life.

Married life

In the same year of her uncle's execution, Argula married Friedrich von Grumbach. The von Grumbach family was not as prestigious as the von Stauffs, but they were still known in German history and Friedrich himself had been appointed to an honorary administrator post in [Dietfurt](#). He also had several other landholdings throughout Bavaria. Little is known about Friedrich because he remained so much in the shadow of his wife. He is also thought to have had poor health, as he died in 1530.

With him Argula had four children, George, Hans Georg, Gottfried and Apollonia. The only child to survive his parents was Gottfried. It seemed that Argula was the one who made all the arrangements for her children's Protestant educations. Records indicated that Argula took care of many of the financial and business matters of her family even before her husband's death.

Little is known, also, about the relationship between Argula and her husband, although there have been hints through her writings. She refuted others' suggestions that she was neglecting her duties as a wife in the poem she wrote in 1524, although she also said ‘May God teach me to understand/ How I should act towards my man’, indicating that it could have been a difficult marriage. [Continued online](#) >>>>

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