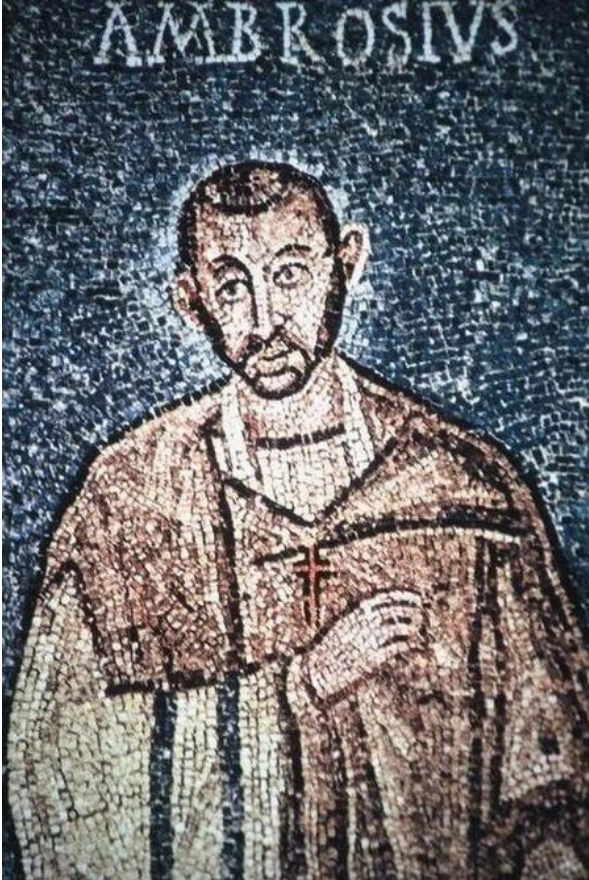




Advent

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

FEAST OF AMBROSE OF MILAN



Ambrose was the son of a Roman governor in Gaul, and in 373, he himself was governor in Upper Italy. Though brought up in a Christian family, Ambrose had not been baptized. He became involved in the election of a Bishop of Milan only as mediator between the battling factions of Arians and orthodox Christians. The election was important, because the victorious party would control the powerful sea of Milan.

Ambrose exhorted the nearly riotous mob to keep the peace and to obey the law. Suddenly both sides raised the cry, "Ambrose shall be our bishop!" He protested, but the people persisted. Hastily baptized, he was ordained bishop on December 7, 373.

Ambrose rapidly won renown as a defender of orthodoxy against Arianism and as a statesman of the Church. He was also a skillful hymnodist. He introduced antiphonal chanting to enrich the liturgy and wrote straightforward, practical discourses to educate his people in such matters of doctrine as Baptism, the Trinity, the Eucharist, and the Person of Christ. His persuasive preaching was an important factor in the conversion of



Welcome and Announcements:

Opening Acclamation:

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

Gloria: (Third Song of Isaiah)

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.

For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.

The Collect of the Day:

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

All: **O God, you gave your servant Ambrose grace eloquently to proclaim your righteousness in the great congregation, and fearlessly to bear reproach for the honor of your Name: Mercifully grant to all bishops and pastors such excellence in preaching and faithfulness in ministering your Word, that your people may be partakers with them of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Word of God *(Please be seated)*

The Old Testament: A reading from **1 Kings 21:17-29**

The word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying: Go down to meet King Ahab of Israel, who rules in Samaria; he is now in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. You shall say to him, “Thus says the Lord: Have you killed, and also taken possession?” You shall say to him, “Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, dogs will also lick up your blood.”

Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” He answered, “I have found you. Because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord, I will bring disaster on you; I will consume you, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel; and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have provoked me to anger and have caused Israel to sin. Also concerning Jezebel the Lord said, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the bounds of Jezreel.’ Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat; and anyone of his who dies in the open country the birds of the air shall eat.”

(Indeed, there was no one like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord, urged on by his wife Jezebel. He acted most abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the Lord drove out before the Israelites.)

When Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth over his bare flesh; he fasted, lay in the sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: “Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son’s days I will bring the disaster on his house.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 27:5-11

Dominus illuminatio

(Read aloud in unison)

- 5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;**
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.**
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.**
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.**
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**
- 10 Harken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.**
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.**

Gospel Lesson:

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke 12:35-46

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?” And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful.”

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

Homily

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

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:

Leader: *Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith. Strengthen Michael and Jennifer our bishops, Allison our priest, and all your Church members in the service of Christ,*

All: That those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Leader: *Bless and guide the President, our elected officials, and those in positions of leadership in our governing bodies; give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace;*

All: that we may honor one another, and seek the common good.

Leader: *Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbors,*

All: that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Leader: *Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit: especially remembering: _____ (Please add the names of any you wish to be remembered).*

Give them courage and hope in their troubles;

All: and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Leader: *Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, especially _____ (please add names of those who have died). According to your promises,*

All: grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Leader: *In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for Trinity Church in Kingman AZ*

All: O Lord, Bless and keep them.

Leader: *In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for The Diocese of Ife East – The Church of Nigeria.*

All: O Lord, Bless and keep them.

Leader: *We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land especially the Apache and Pascua Yaqui who call this area of Arizona their home.*

All: **O Lord, Bless and keep them.**

Leader: *Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints,*

All: **We commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. 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.*

Exchange of the Peace

Presider *May the peace of Christ be always with you*

All **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People exchange socially distant signs of peace (peace sign, namaste, virtual hug)

Offertory

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

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer B BCP p. 372

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because of your goodness and the fullness of your love revealed in your abundant creation, in the sending of your Son and in the imparting of your Holy Spirit, our hearts are moved to thankful praise.

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:

All:

**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.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through

Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

*By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.***

And now as Jesus taught us, we pray:

Lord's Prayer:

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

Fraction: *(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

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

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

Invitation to Communion:

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 invited to come forward and receive communion or a blessing).

Recognition of a Birthday, Anniversary, Healing, Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider: Let us pray:

Presider and People

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Presider: *Holy God, make us holy as you are holy. Revealing God, allow us to see as you see. Sending God, motivate us to move as you move. Loving God, inspire us to love as you love. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon 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!**

Augustine of Hippo.

Ambrose did not fear to rebuke emperors, including the hot-headed Theodosius, whom he forced to do public penance for the slaughter of several thousand citizens of Salonika.

About Baptism, Ambrose wrote: “After the font (of baptism), the Holy Spirit is poured on you, ‘the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and godliness, and the spirit of holy fear’” (De Sacramentis 3.8).

A meditation attributed to him includes these words: “Lord Jesus Christ, you are for me medicine when I am sick; you are my strength when I need help; you are life itself when I fear death; you are the way when I long for heaven; you are light when all is dark; you are my food when I need nourishment.”

[From Wikipedias](#)

Ambrose of Milan (*Latin*: *Aurelius Ambrosius*; c. 340 – 397), venerated as **Saint Ambrose**,^[a] was the [Bishop of Milan](#), a [theologian](#), and one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the 4th century.

Ambrose was serving as the [Roman governor](#) of [Aemilia-Liguria](#) in Milan when he was unexpectedly made Bishop of Milan in 374 by popular acclamation. As bishop, he took a firm position against [Arianism](#) and attempted to mediate the conflict between the emperors [Theodosius I](#) and [Magnus Maximus](#). Tradition credits Ambrose with promoting "[antiphonal chant](#)", a style of chanting in which one side of the choir responds alternately to the other, as well as with composing *Veni redemptor gentium*, an [Advent](#) hymn. He also had notable influence on [Augustine of Hippo](#) (354–430).

[Western Christianity](#) identified Ambrose as one of its four traditional [Doctors of the Church](#). He is considered a [saint](#) by the [Catholic Church](#), [Eastern Orthodox Church](#), [Anglican Communion](#), and various [Lutheran denominations](#), and venerated as the [patron saint](#) of Milan.

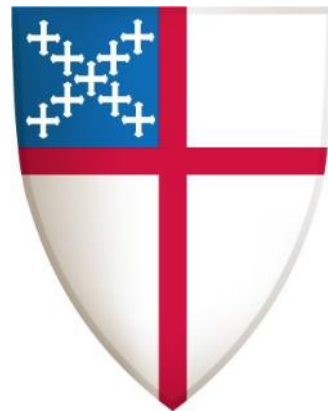
Life and background

Legends about Ambrose had spread through the empire long before his biography was written, making it difficult for modern historians to understand his true character and fairly place his behavior within the context of antiquity. Most agree, he was the personification of his era.^{[3]:5}^{[4]:ix} As such, Ambrose was a genuinely spiritual man who spoke up and defended his faith against opponents, an aristocrat who retained many of the attitudes and practices of a Roman governor, while also being an ascetic, who served the poor, and advised emperors.^{[4]:ix–x,1–2}

By Ambrose's day, Arianism was in slow decline, but still active, and Ambrose was occupied with it for over half his episcopate.^{[4]:6–7} Unifying the church was important to the church, but it was no less important to the state.^{[5]:37} Judaism was more attractive for those seeking conversion than previous scholars have realized, and pagans were still in the majority. All of this together created an age of religious ferment comparable to the Reformation of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.^{[4]:6} Orthodox Christianity was determining how to define itself by facing these multiple challenges on both a theological and a practical level, and Ambrose became a crucial aspect of that.^{[4]:5,7–8}

[Continued online](#)

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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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