



The Season of **Epiphany**

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 WULFSTAN OF WORCESTER

Wed. 19 January 9:30am, 2022



Wulfstan^[a] (c. 1008 – 20 January 1095) was **Bishop of Worcester** from 1062 to 1095. He was the last surviving pre-**Conquest** bishop and the only English-born bishop after 1075. Wulfstan is a **saint** in the **Western** Christian churches.

Denomination

His denomination as Wulfstan II is to indicate that he is the second Bishop Wulfstan of **Worcester**. This, however, does not prevent confusion, since the first **Bishop Wulfstan** is also called Wulfstan II to denote that *he* was the second **Archbishop of York** called Wulfstan.^[1] Wulfstan II, Archbishop of York, was the maternal uncle of Wulfstan II, Bishop of Worcester.

Life

Wulfstan was born about 1008 at **Long Itchington** in the **English county** of **Warwickshire**.^[2] His family lost their lands around the time King **Cnut of England** came to the throne.^[3] He was probably named after his uncle, **Wulfstan II, Archbishop of York**. Through his uncle's influence, he studied at monasteries in **Evesham** and **Peterborough**, before becoming a clerk at **Worcester**. During this time, his superiors, not-

Welcome and Announcements:



The Word of God

The Greeting

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. 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/Glory to God

Hymnal 1982 # S280

**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:

Presider The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray

All: Almighty God, whose only-begotten Son led captivity captive and gave gifts to your people: Multiply among us faithful pastors, who, like your holy bishop Wulfstan, will give courage to those who are oppressed and held in bondage; and bring us all, we pray, into the true freedom of

your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of God *(Please be seated)*

The Old Testament: A reading from **Genesis 12:1-9**

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84:7-12

Quam dilectis! *(Read aloud in unison)*

**7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.**

**8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

**9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

**10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;**

**11 No good thing will the Lord withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.**

**12 O Lord of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

Gospel Lesson:

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
John 15:5-16

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

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: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Leader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader: Give to the departed eternal rest.

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Leader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence—The People may add their own petitions.

Leader: We honor and pray for our indigenous neighbors.

People: That we may dwell together in respectful harmony.

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.

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor:
(a short silence)

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.

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

Presider: *But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Enriching our Worship I

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 truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing (say):

Celebrant and People

All:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might (x2),
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. (x2)

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

Hosanna in the highest (x2).

Presider continues: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and 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 friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit (+) may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit (+) and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. 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)*

Hymnal 1982 #S154:

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,
Therefore let us keep the feast,
Alleluia, Alleluia, 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

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.

The Blessing

The Presider says

*The Holy eternal Majesty, The Holy incarnate Word,
The Holy abiding Spirit, Bless you now and for evermore. 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 in the spirit of the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!*

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia)

ing his reputation for dedication and chastity, urged him to join the priesthood. Wulfstan was ordained shortly thereafter, in 1038, and soon joined a [monastery](#) of [Benedictines](#) at Worcester.

Wulfstan served as [treasurer](#) and [prior](#) of Worcester, and from 1034 onwards served as the parish priest of [Hawkesbury, Gloucestershire](#).^{[4][5][6]} When [Ealdred](#), the bishop of Worcester as well as the [Archbishop of York](#), was required to relinquish Worcester by [Pope Nicholas](#), Ealdred decided to have Wulfstan appointed to Worcester. In addition, Ealdred continued to hold a number of the manors of the diocese.^[7] Wulfstan was consecrated Bishop of Worcester on 8 September 1062,^[8] by Ealdred. It would have been more proper for him to have been consecrated by the [Archbishop of Canterbury](#), whose province Worcester was in.^[7] Wulfstan had deliberately avoided consecration by the current archbishop of Canterbury, [Stigand](#), since Stigand's own consecration had been [uncanonical](#). Wulfstan still acknowledged that the see of Worcester was a suffragan of Canterbury. He made no profession of obedience to Ealdred, instead offering a profession of obedience to Stigand's successor [Lanfranc](#).^[9]

Wulfstan was a confidant of [Harold Godwinson](#), who helped secure the bishopric for him.^[10] A social reformer, Wulfstan struggled to bridge the gap between the old and new regimes, and to alleviate the suffering of the poor. He was a strong opponent of the [slave trade](#), and together with Lanfranc, was mainly responsible for ending the [trade from Bristol](#).^[11]

After the [Norman conquest of England](#), Wulfstan was the only English-born bishop to retain his diocese for any significant time after the Conquest (all others had been replaced or succeeded by Normans by 1075).^{[12][13]} William noted that pastoral care of his diocese was Wulfstan's principal interest.

In 1072 Wulfstan signed the [Accord of Winchester](#). In 1075, Wulfstan and the Worcestershire [fyrd](#) militia countered the [Revolt of the Earls](#), when various magnates attempted a rebellion against [William the Conqueror](#).

Wulfstan founded the [Great Malvern Priory](#), and undertook much large-scale rebuilding work, including [Worcester Cathedral](#), [Hereford Cathedral](#), [Tewkesbury Abbey](#), and many other churches in the Worcester, [Hereford](#) and [Gloucester](#) areas.^[citation needed] After the Norman Conquest, he claimed that the [Oswaldslow](#), a "triple hundred" administered by the bishops of Worcester, was free of interference by the local [sheriff](#). This right to exclude the sheriff was recorded in the [Domesday Book](#) in 1086. Wulfstan also administered the [diocese of Lichfield](#) when it was vacant between 1071 and 1072.^[14]

As bishop, he often assisted the archbishops of York with [consecrations](#), as they had few suffragan bishops. In 1073 Wulfstan helped [Thomas of Bayeux](#) consecrate Radulf as [Bishop of Orkney](#), and in 1081 helped consecrate [William de St-Calais](#) as [Bishop of Durham](#).^[7]

Wulfstan was responsible for the compilation by [Hemming](#) of the second [cartulary](#) of Worcester.^[15] He was close friends with [Robert Losinga](#), the [Bishop of Hereford](#), who was well known as a mathematician and astronomer.^[14]

Wulfstan died 20 January 1095 after a protracted illness, the last surviving pre-Conquest bishop.^[16] After his death, an altar was dedicated to him in Great Malvern Priory, next to those of [Thomas Cantilupe](#) and [King Edward the Confessor](#).

