



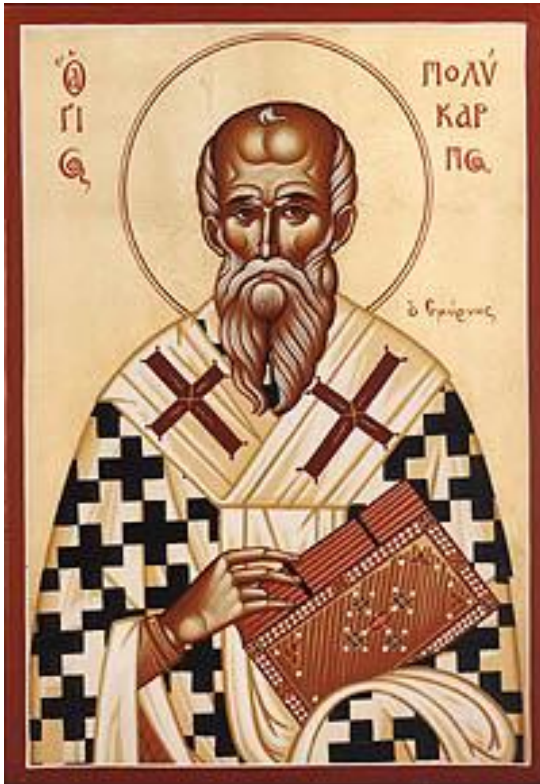
The Season of **Epiphany**

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

THE FEAST OF POLYCARP OF SMYRNA

BISHOP AND MARTYR, 156

Wed 23 February 9:30am, 2022



Polycarp ([/'pɒlɪkɑːr.p/](#); **Greek**: Πολύκαρπος, *Polýkarpos*; **Latin**: *Polycarpus*; AD 69 – 155) was a Christian **bishop** of **Smyrna**.^[1] According to the *Martyrdom of Polycarp*, he died a martyr, bound and burned at the stake, then stabbed when the fire failed to consume his body.^[2] Polycarp is regarded as a **saint** and **Church Father** in the **Catholic**, **Eastern Orthodox**, **Oriental Orthodox**, **Anglican**, and **Lutheran** churches.

Both **Irenaeus**^[3] and **Tertullian**^[4] say that Polycarp had been a disciple of **John the Apostle**, one of Jesus' disciples. In *On Illustrious Men*, **Jerome** writes that Polycarp was a disciple of John the Apostle and that John had ordained him as a bishop of Smyrna.^[5] Polycarp is regarded as one of three chief **Apostolic Fathers**, along with **Clement of Rome** and **Ignatius of Antioch**.

Surviving writings and early accounts

The sole surviving work attributed to him is the *Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians*, a



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: O God, the maker of heaven and earth, you gave your venerable servant, the holy and gentle Polycarp, the boldness to confess Jesus Christ as King and Savior and the steadfastness to die for his faith: Give us grace, following his example, to share the cup of Christ and to rise to eternal life; 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 New Testament: A reading from **Revelation 2:8-11**

“To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of the first and the last, who was dead and came to life:

“I know your affliction and your poverty, even though you are rich. I know the slander on the part of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121 *(Read aloud in unison)*
Levavi oculos

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; ***
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, ***
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved ***
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ***
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; ***
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ***
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; ***
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, ***
from this time forth for evermore.

Gospel Lesson:

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew 20:20-28

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

The mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” He said to them, “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes

to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

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)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Hymnal 1982 #S154:
**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)

mosaic of references to the [Greek Scriptures](#), which, along with an account of [The Martyrdom of Polycarp](#), forms part of the collection of writings called [Apostolic Fathers](#). After [the Acts of the Apostles](#), which describes the death of [Stephen](#), the *Martyrdom* is considered one of the earliest genuine accounts of a [Christian martyrdom](#).^[11] Charles E. Hill argues extensively that the teachings Irenaeus ascribes to a certain apostolic "presbyter" throughout his writings represent lost teachings of Polycarp, his teacher.^[6]

Life

The chief sources of information concerning the life of Polycarp are *The Martyrdom of Polycarp*, [Adversus Haereses](#), *The Epistle to Florinus*, the [epistles of Ignatius](#), and Polycarp's own [letter to the Philippians](#). In 1999, the Harris Fragments, a collection of 3rd- to 6th-century [Coptic](#) texts that mention Polycarp, were published.^[7]

Link to the Apostles and Jesus

According to Irenaeus, Polycarp was a companion of [Papias](#), another "hearer of John", and a correspondent of [Ignatius of Antioch](#). Ignatius addressed a letter to him and mentions him in his [letters to the Ephesians](#) and to the [Magnesians](#).^[8] Polycarp's own [Epistle of Polycarp to the Philippians](#) gives us some insights to the early usage of the [New Testament](#) from the quotes used within his letter.^[9]

Irenaeus regarded the memory of Polycarp as a link to the apostolic past. In his letter to Florinus, a fellow student of Polycarp who had become a Roman presbyter and later lapsed into heresy, Irenaeus relates how and when he [became a Christian](#):^[10]

I could tell you the place where the blessed Polycarp sat to preach the [Word of God](#). It is yet present to my mind with what gravity he everywhere came in and went out; what was the sanctity of his deportment, the majesty of his countenance; and what were his holy exhortations to the people. I seem to hear him now relate how he conversed with John and many others who had seen Jesus Christ, the words he had heard from their mouths.^[11]

In particular, he heard the account of Polycarp's discussion with John and with others who had seen [Jesus](#). Irenaeus reports that Polycarp was converted to Christianity by apostles, was consecrated a presbyter, and communicated with many who had seen Jesus. He writes that he had had the good fortune, when young, to know Polycarp, who was then far advanced in years.^[12]

Visit to Anicetus

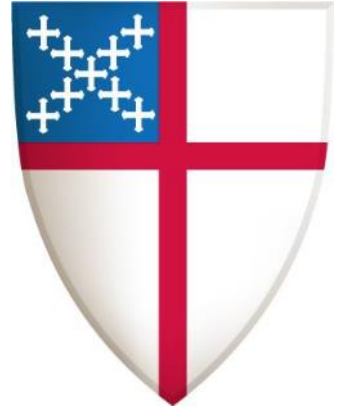
According to Irenaeus, during the time his fellow Syrian [Anicetus](#) was [Bishop of Rome](#), Polycarp visited [Rome](#) to discuss differences in the practices of the churches of [Asia](#) and Rome. Irenaeus states that on certain things the two speedily came to an understanding, while as to the observance of [Easter](#), each adhered to his own custom, without breaking off [full communion](#) with the other.^[13] Polycarp followed the Eastern practice of celebrating the feast on the [14th of Nisan](#), the day of the Jewish [Passover](#), regardless of the day of the week on which it fell, while Anicetus followed the Western practice of celebrating the feast on the first Sunday following the first [full moon](#) after the [spring equinox](#). Anicetus allowed Polycarp to celebrate the [Eucharist](#) in his own church, which was regarded by the Romans as a great honor.^[13]

[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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