

LENT

A Season of Renewal



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 GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR

Wed 23 March 9:30am, 2022

Gregory the Illuminator^[1] (**Classical Armenian**: Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչ, **reformed**: Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչ, *Grigor Lusavorich*,^[a] c. 257 – c. 331) is the patron **saint** and first official head of the **Armenian Apostolic Church**. He was a religious leader who converted **Armenia** from **paganism** to Christianity in 301.

Beginnings

Gregory was the son^[2] of the Armenian **Parthian** nobles^[3] **Anak the Parthian** and Okohe. His father, Anak, was a Prince said to be related to the Arsacid Kings of Armenia^[4] or was from the **House of Suren**, one of the **seven branches** of the ruling Arsacid dynasty^{[5][6][7]} of **Sakastan**.^[8] Anak was charged with assassinating **Khosrov II**, one of the kings of the **Arsacid dynasty** and was put to death. Gregory narrowly escaped execution with the help of Sopia and Yevtagh, his caretakers. He was taken to **Caesarea** in **Cappadocia** where Sopia and Yevtagh hoped to raise him. Gregory was given to the Christian Holy Father Phirmilianos (Euthalius) to be educated and was brought up as a devout Christian.^[9]

Upon coming of age, Gregory married a wom-



Welcome and Announcements:

Rev. Allison Cornell

Opening Acclamation:

Presider: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

People: **His mercy endures forever.**

Presider: Happy are those whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. I will confess my sins to the Lord, I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

Silence

Presider: God forgives and heals us.

**All: We need your healing, merciful God: give us true repentance.
Some sins are plain to us; some escape us, some we cannot face.
Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us; set us free to serve
you. Amen**

Presider: God forgives you. Forgive others; Forgive yourself.

Silence

Presider: Through Christ, God has put away your sin: approach your God in peace.

Kyrie Eleison / Lord, have mercy - Richard Proulx

**Lord have mercy, upon us
Christ have mercy, upon us
Lord have mercy, upon us**

The Collect of the Day:

Presider The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

All: Almighty God, who raised up your servant Gregory to be a light in the world, and to preach the Gospel to the people of Armenia: Illuminate our hearts, that we also in our own generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness and into your marvelous light; 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)*

First Lesson: A reading from Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 33:6-11

(Read aloud in unison)

Exultate, justi

6 By the word of the Lord were the heavens made, *

by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.

7 He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *

and stores up the depths of the sea.

8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; *

let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.

9 For he spoke, and it came to pass; *

he commanded, and it stood fast.

10 The Lord brings the will of the nations to naught; *

he thwarts the designs of the peoples.

11 But the Lord'S will stands fast for ever, *

and the designs of his heart from age to age.

Gospel Lesson:

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Mark (2:18-22)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to Jesus, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

"No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

Leader: Let us proclaim our faith in the words of the Apostles Creed:

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the People

Presider: Blessed are you eternal God,

People: to be praised and glorified for ever.

Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church.

May we all be one that the world may believe.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you,

that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

We remember those who have died.

Father, into your hands we commend them.

(Remembering N) We praise you for all your saints
who have entered your eternal glory.

May we also come to share your heavenly kingdom.

Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble.

In your presence may they find strength.

Look with your kindness on our homes and families.

Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Make us alive to the needs of our community.

Help us to share one another's joys and burdens.

We honor and pray for our indigenous neighbors

That we may dwell together in respectful harmony

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world.

Guide us and all people in the way of justice and peace.

Strengthen all who minister in Christ's name.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray *for St. Luke's at the Mountain
in Phoenix*

In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for *The The Diocese of Kitgum
– The Church of the Province of Uganda.*

Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.

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

New Zealand BCP

Presider *The Lord is here.*

People **God's spirit is with us**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.*

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us. When we sinned and turned away you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. Who though tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin; through your Christ therefore we may triumph over sin and grow in grace.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Presider and People:

Hymnal #S129

**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.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father.

On the night before he died your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this

is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Glory to you, Lord Christ; your death we show forth; your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await; Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

Therefore loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit (+) that these gifts of bread and wine which we Receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power (+), may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise. Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

Presider: *As Jesus taught us we now pray: (Contemporary version)*

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

(Presider breaks the consecrated bread)

Fraction Anthem

Hymnal 1982 #S161

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world grant us peace.

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.

All are welcome to come forward to receive communion. Please observe the social distancing by using the marks on the floor. Indicate a dipping motion to have your bread dipped in the wine. To receive just the bread without the wine, extend arm with hand open, palm up to receive the bread. Move to the side to lift/lower mask to eat bread, replace mask and return to your seat.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray:

All: Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Benediction:

Presider: May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and the blessing of God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and forever. **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 name of Christ

People **Thanks be to God.**

Stations of the Cross to follow at 10:30

an called Miriam, a devout Christian who was the daughter of a Christian Armenian prince in Cappadocia. From their union, Miriam bore Gregory two children, their sons [Vrtanes](#) and [Aristaces](#). Through Vrtanes, Gregory and Miriam would have further descendants and when Gregory died, Aristaces succeeded him. At some point, Miriam and Gregory separated in order that Gregory might take up a monastic life. Gregory left Cappadocia and went to Armenia in the hope of atoning for his father's crime by evangelizing his homeland.^[8]

At that time [Tiridates III](#), son of the late King Khosrov II, reigned. Influenced partly by the fact that Gregory was the son of his father's enemy, he ordered Gregory imprisoned for twelve (some sources indicate fourteen) years in a pit on the Ararat Plain under the present day church of [Khor Virap](#) located near the historical city [Artashat](#) in Armenia. Gregory was eventually called forth from his pit in c. 297 to restore sanity to Tiridates III, who had lost all reason after he was betrayed by [Roman emperor Diocletian](#).^[citation needed]

Declaration of Christianity in Armenia

In 301 Gregory baptized Tiridates III along with members of the royal court and upper class as Christians. Tiridates III issued a decree by which he granted Gregory full rights to begin carrying out the conversion of the entire nation to the Christian faith. The same year Armenia became the first to adopt Christianity in the early fourth century^[10]

The newly built cathedral, the Mother Church in [Etchmiadzin](#) became and remains the spiritual and cultural center of Armenian Christianity and center of the [Armenian Apostolic Church](#). Most Armenians were baptized in the [Aratsani](#) (upper Euphrates) and [Yeraskh](#) (Arax) rivers.

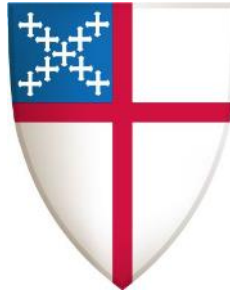
Many of the pre-Christian (traditional Indo-European) festivals and celebrations such as Tyarndarach (Trndez, associated with fire worship) and [Vardavar](#) or Vadarvar associated with water worship, that dated back thousands of years, were preserved and continued in the form of Christian celebrations and chants. In 302, Gregory received consecration as [Patriarch of Armenia](#) from [Leontius of Caesarea](#).^[11]

Retirement and death

In 318, Gregory appointed his second son Aristaces as the next [Catholicos](#)^[11] in line of Armenia's Holy Apostolic Church to stabilize and continue strengthening Christianity not only in Armenia, but also in the Caucasus. Gregory also placed and instructed his grandson Gregory (one of the sons of Vrtanes) in charge of the holy missions to the peoples and tribes of all of the Caucasus and [Caucasian Albania](#); the younger man was [martyred](#) by a fanatical mob while preaching in Albania.

In his later years, Gregory withdrew to a small sanctuary near Mount Sebu (Mt. Sepuh) in the [Daranali](#) province (Manyats Ayr, Upper Armenia) with a small convent of monks, where he remained until his death

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

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

Church Accompanist :
Doreen Oberg
[doreenoberg
@hotmail.com](mailto:doreenoberg@hotmail.com)

Vestry Staff
Senior Warden:
Jeff Speer
[jeffrey5454speer@gmail](mailto:jeffrey5454speer@gmail.com)
Cell:(520) 678-5688
Please leave voicemail message

Junior warden:
Pete Criscuolo
petesacct2014@gmail.com
Cell: 520-234-7687
Treasurer:
Anne Roth
Cell:303/917-8151
avd.roth@comcast.net

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

Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____