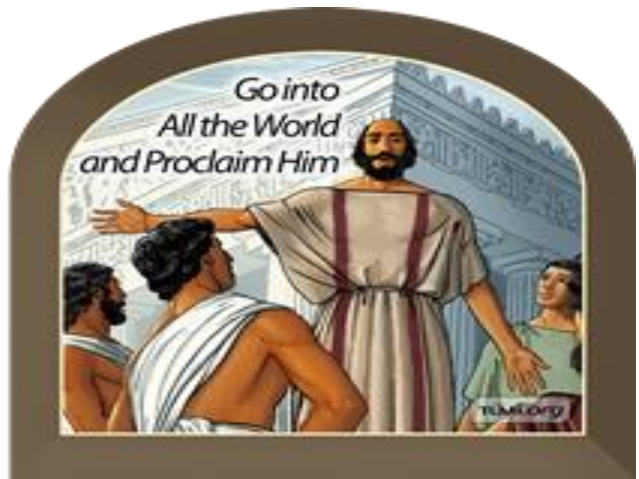


THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

A Season of Christ's Harvest



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

8 June 2022 9:30am

THE FEAST MELANIA THE ELDER



From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Saint Melania the Elder, Latin **Sancta Melania Maior** (born in Spain, ca. 350^[1]—died in Jerusalem before 410^{[2][1]} or in ca. 417^[3]) was a Desert Mother who was an influential figure in the Christian ascetic movement (the Desert Fathers and Mothers) that sprang up in the generation after the Emperor Constantine made Christianity a legal religion of the Roman Empire. She was a contemporary of, and well known to, Abba Macarius and other Desert Fathers in Egypt, Saint Jerome, Saint Augustine of Hippo, Saint Paulinus of Nola (her cousin or cousin-in-law; he gives a colorful description of her visit to Nola in his Letters), and Evagrius of Pontus, and she founded two religious communities on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.^{[4][1]} She stands out for the convent she founded for herself and the monastery she established in honour of Rufinus of Aquileia, which belong to the earliest Christian communities, and because she



Opening Acclamation:

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

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

Gloria

1982 Hymnal #S236

**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 you 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 hight 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

Collect of the Day:

Most High and Merciful God, who called your servant Melania to forsake earthly comforts in order to devote herself to studying the scriptures and to welcoming the poor: Instruct us in the ways of poverty and the grace of hospitality, that we might comfort those who have no place to rest and teach the way of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Word of God *(please be seated)*

The First Lesson - A Reading from the book of Exodus 4:24–26

On the way, at a place where they spent the night, the Lord met Moses and tried to kill him. But Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin, and touched Moses' feet with it, and said, "Truly you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" So he let him alone. It was then she said, "A bridegroom of blood by circumcision."

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm - Psalm 119:65-72

**65 O Lord, You have dealt graciously with your servant, *
according to your word.**

**66 Teach me discernment and knowledge, *
for I have believed in your commandments.**

**67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, *
but now I keep your word.**

**68 You are good and you bring forth good; *
instruct me in your statutes.**

**69 The proud have smeared me with lies, *
but I will keep your commandments with my whole heart.**

**70 Their heart is gross and fat, *
but my delight is in your law.**

**71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, *
that I might learn your statutes.**

**72 The law of your mouth is dearer to me *
than thousands in gold and silver.**

Gospel Lesson:

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Mark 8:14–21

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And Jesus cautioned them, saying, "Watch out—beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod." They said to one another,

“It is because we have no bread.” And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?” They said to him, “Twelve.” “And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?” And they said to him, “Seven.” Then he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to you, Lord Christ**

Sermon

Nicene Creed *All say together* (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

Leader: Holy God, by your spirit you gave birth to your church: may our many members be the one Body of Christ in this World, and then lead us by your Holy Spirit in the ways of truth and love. Come, Spirit of Truth,
People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Holy God, you gave your disciples the ability to speak in languages of the people: may we also speak about your deeds of power and grace throughout the world, that all may know of your loving-kindness and saving mercy. Come, Spirit of Truth,
People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Holy God, the earth is full of your creatures: may all who look to you be given their food in due season. Open your hand in the desolate places and fill the hungry with good things. Come, Spirit of Truth,
People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Holy God, you poured out your Holy Spirit in your holy city Jerusalem: pour out your Spirit in our own towns and cities. Raise up modern day prophets and visionaries to call us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Come, Spirit of Truth,
People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Holy God, you give the gift of healing by your Spirit: bring healing and wholeness to all those on our hearts and minds this day, especially (the people add their petitions for prayers)..... In your might and compassion, renew the face of the Earth. Bring renewal to those in need. Come, Spirit of Truth,
People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Leader: Holy God, you adopt us as your children, joint heirs with your Christ. In your unending loving-kindness we lift up to you:
In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: _____.
In the Diocesan cycle of prayer: _____.
And we pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache peoples who called this area home.

May we continue to support one another in love and empathy.

Come, Spirit of Truth,

People: Come, Holy Spirit.

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

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.**

Presider: Let us pray

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.

Benediction:

Presider: And now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with all of you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (*Alleluia!*)**

promoted the asceticism which she, as a follower of [Origen](#), considered indispensable for salvation.^[11]

Life

St. Melania the Elder (ca. 350 - ca. 410), one of the wealthiest citizens of the empire, was born in [Spain](#), and was related to Paulinus of Nola. Her father, Marcellinus, was of consular rank.^[5] She married at fourteen, and moved with her husband (unknown, possibly a politician named [Maximus](#))^[6] to the suburbs of [Rome](#). Her husband and two out of three sons had died by the time she was twenty-two. She became a [Christian](#) in [Rome](#) and, leaving her son, Valerius Publicola, with a guardian, set off to [Alexandria](#), accompanied by her servants, to join other Christian ascetics to visit the monks at [Nitria](#).^[7]

She stayed with the monks in the desert near Alexandria, Egypt (today the area is known as [Wadi Natroun](#)) for about six months. When persecution broke out after the death of [Bishop Athanasius](#) in 373 and many of the monks were exiled to Diocaesaraea in Palestine, St. Melania followed and supported them financially. The governor had her briefly imprisoned, but released her when he realized her social status.^[5] She built a convent in Jerusalem, and a monastery on the [Mount of Olives](#) for the monk and theologian Rufinus of Aquileia.^[8]

Because of her involvement as a pro-[Origenist](#) in the controversy over Origen in the 390s, Jerome was especially vitriolic about her, punning on her name and calling her "black in name and black in nature." (He tried to expunge his earlier lavish praises of her from his writings.)^[9] [Palladius of Galatia](#) described her as "a very learned lady who loved the world".^[5]

Around the year 400 she left for Rome to see her son, who had married [Caeionia Albina](#), daughter of [Caeionius Rufius Albinus](#). Due to her influence, her granddaughter, known as [Melania the Younger](#), would later take up the religious life.^[7] She also visited Paulinus and [Therasia of Nola](#) and brought him a relic of the True Cross.^[3] [Augustine of Hippo](#) wrote Paulinus that his kinswoman was in North Africa when her son, Valerius, died in 406.^[2]

When the Visigoths [marched on Rome](#) in 410, Melania, her daughter-in law, Albina, and granddaughter Melania and her husband fled to Sicily. From there they went to the family estate at [Thagaste](#) in North Africa, where they remained for seven years. They then went to Jerusalem, where Melania died around 417.^[3]

She is regarded as a [saint](#). Her [feast day](#) is June 8.

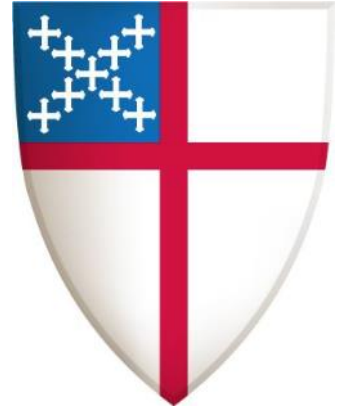
Influence

She was a spiritual mentor to [Evagrius of Pontus](#), author of some texts found in the Eastern Orthodox Philokalia; she persuaded him to go to Egypt to join the desert ascetics and carried on a correspondence with him while he was there.

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Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



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Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

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