



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

20 July 2022 9:30am

## THE FEAST OF FABIAN



from Wikipedia

**Pope Fabian** (*Latin: Fabianus*) was the bishop of Rome from 10 January 236 to his death on 20 January 250,<sup>[4]</sup> succeeding An-terus. A dove is said to have descended on his head to mark him as the Holy Spirit's unexpected choice to become the next pope.<sup>[5]</sup> He was succeeded by Cornelius.

Most of his papacy was characterized by amicable relations with the imperial government, and the schism between the Roman congregations of Pontian and Hippolytus was ended. He divided Rome into diaconates and appointed secretaries to collect the records of the martyrs. He sent out seven "apostles to the Gauls" as missionaries, but probably did not baptize Emperor Philip the Arab as is alleged. He died a martyr at the beginning of the Decian persecution and is venerated as a saint by the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church.<sup>[4][5]</sup> — *Argula von Grumbach, 1523*

### **Early life and accession**

According to the *Liber Pontificalis*, Fabian

Leader: Welcome to this place of ancient origins:

**ALL: A house of prayer for many and home to all who come.**

Leader: Welcome to this gathering place:

**ALL: Friend and stranger, saint and sinner, all who gather here.**

Leader: Come with hope or hesitation; come with joy or yearning; all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness.

**ALL: Generous God, Generous Savior, touch us through your spirit.**

**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 high vault of heaven,  
glory to you.**

**Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;**

**we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

Leader: We gather in God's name.

**ALL: We claim Christ's promised presence.**

### **The Collect:**

Presider Let us pray.

**All: Grant, Almighty God, that in all times of trial and persecution, we might remain steadfast in faith and endurance, according to the example of your servant Fabian, who was faithful even unto death. We ask this for the sake of him who laid down his life for us all, Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

Leader: Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

**ALL: Our hearts and minds are open.**

*(Please be seated for the lessons)*

## **The First Lesson - A Reading from 2 Esdras 2:42-48**

I, Ezra, saw on Mount Zion a great multitude that I could not number, and they all were praising the Lord with songs. In their midst was a young man of great stature, taller than any of the others, and on the head of each of them he placed a crown, but he was more exalted than they. And I was held spellbound. Then I asked an angel, "Who are these, my lord?" He answered and said to me, "These are they who have put off mortal clothing and have put on the immortal, and have confessed the name of God. Now they are being crowned, and receive palms." Then I said to the angel, "Who is that young man who is placing crowns on them and putting palms in their hands?" He answered and said to me, "He is the Son of God, whom they confessed in the world." So I began to praise those who had stood valiantly for the name of the Lord. Then the angel said to me, "Go, tell my people how great and how many are the wonders of the Lord God that you have seen."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Psalm - Psalm 126**

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \***  
**then were we like those who dream.**
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \***  
**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \***  
**"The Lord has done great things for them."**
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, \***  
**and we are glad indeed.**
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \***  
**like the watercourses of the Negev.**
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \***  
**will reap with songs of joy.**
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \***  
**will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## **Gospel Lesson:**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
**Matthew 10:24-30**

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

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted..”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to you, Lord Christ**

## **The Sermon**

*An Affirmation of our Faith (from the Iona Community)*

Deacon/Leader: Let us affirm our faith together, saying:

**ALL: We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree. A man of sorrows, he died forsaken, he descended into the earth to the place of death, on the third day he rose from the tomb. He ascended into Heaven to be everywhere present, and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the world, spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

Leader: O Jesus, you sat at table with the betrayed, marginalized, and rejected of Palestine. We pray for those today who do not feel welcomed in their daily lives. Help us to be hospitable to all we meet in our daily lives. Christ, in your mercy,

**ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: O Jesus, you identified with the naked. with those who had no place to lay their heads, and with the hungry and thirsty. We pray for the homeless, those without clothing and food, those in need of basic comforts in our community. Help us to be faithful in caring for these people around us. Christ, in your mercy,

**ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: O Jesus, you belonged to a refugee family. We pray for all the displaced people in our world, and for the nations to unite in caring for those seeking asylum and new lives of hope and safety. Help us to see you in each person seeking refuge and extend our welcome to them. Christ, in your mercy,

**ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: O Jesus, you cared for your companions and for the little ones who surrounded you. We pray for our family, friends, and neighbors, and for those for whom you have given us a special care:

\* For the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache people, that we may honor each other and work together for our common good.

\* In the diocesan cycle of prayer for *ECM at ASU*

\* In the Anglican cycle of prayer for *The Diocese of Maseno East –  
The Anglican Church of Kenya*

Christ, in your mercy,

**ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Leader: O Jesus, you prayed that we might be one as you and the Father are one. We pray that during this week ahead we may feel at home with one another and with you in our midst. Christ, in your mercy,

**ALL: HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

### **The Confession:**

Deacon: Let us humbly confess our sins to God.

**All: Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly, love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

Presider: May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from you sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### **The Peace:**

Presider: We who are many, and come from many places, are one in Christ.  
May the peace of Christ always be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*(The people exchange signs of peace with each other)*

## **The Offertory**

Presider: We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, may we offer our gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, and living sacrifice.

Doxology

(Hymn #380 v. 3)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise him all creature here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Amen**

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

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*

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love, Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ.

Therefore with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with Stephen and the host of heaven, with all the saints before and beside us, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of your unending greatness:

Sanctus

1982 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**

*Then the Presider continues*

Blessed is our friend and teacher Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread.

On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given to you."

In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, "This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and drink it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:



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

Hear us, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us (+) and upon this bread and wine (+). May they become for us your body and blood, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing and making us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

**Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which your earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread and this cup. AMEN.**

Presider: *As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,*

**All:                   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 Anthem

1982 Hymnal #S155

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

**Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: The Lord's Supper is now made ready. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or you who are here for the first time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who feel you have failed; Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

*(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church.)*

# **Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travelers, Gratitudes**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Presider: Let us pray:

**People: Lord of all mercy,  
we your faithful people by our communion with you  
have celebrated that one true sacrifice  
which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace:  
keep us firm in the foundation of your Word and Truth  
and guide us in your will and your ways;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

## **Benediction:**

Presider: May the everlasting God shield you, east and west and wherever you go. And the blessing of God of all life be upon you, the blessing of Christ of all love be upon you, the blessing of the Spirit of all grace be upon you, The blessing of the Holy Trinity be upon you. Now and forever more. 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!)**

*Join us for refreshments and a time of fellowship in the Parish Hall.*

was a noble Roman by birth, and his father's name was [Fabius](#). Nothing more is known about his background. The legend concerning the circumstances of his election is preserved by the fourth-century writer [Eusebius of Caesarea](#) (*Church History*, VI. 29).<sup>[6]</sup> One authority refers to him as "Flavian".<sup>[7]</sup>

After the short reign of [Pope Anterus](#), Fabian had come to Rome from the countryside when the new [papal election](#) began. "Although present", says Eusebius, Fabian "was in the mind of none". While the names of several illustrious and noble churchmen were being considered over the course of thirteen days, a dove suddenly descended upon the head of Fabian. To the assembled electors, this strange sight recalled the gospel scene of the [descent of the Holy Spirit](#) on [Jesus](#) at the time of his baptism by [John the Baptist](#). The congregation took this as a sign that he was marked out for this dignity, and Fabian was at once proclaimed bishop by [acclamation](#).<sup>[6]</sup>

## **Papacy**

During Fabian's reign of 14 years, there was a lull in the storm of persecution which had resulted in the exile of both [Anterus](#)' predecessor [Pontian](#) and the antipope (and later saint) [Hippolytus](#). Fabian had enough influence at court to effect the return of the bodies of both of these martyrs from Sardinia, where they had died at hard labor in the mines. The report that he baptized the emperor [Philip the Arab](#) and his son, however, is probably a legend, although he did seem to enjoy some connections at court, since the bodies of Pontian and Hippolytus could not have been exhumed without the emperor's approval.<sup>[7]</sup>

According to the sixth-century historian [Gregory of Tours](#)<sup>[8]</sup> Fabian sent out the "apostles to the Gauls" to Christianise [Gaul](#) in A.D. 245. Fabian sent seven bishops from [Rome](#) to Gaul to preach the Gospel: [Gatianus of Tours](#) to [Tours](#), [Trophimus of Arles](#) to [Arles](#), [Paul of Narbonne](#) to [Narbonne](#), [Saturnin](#) to [Toulouse](#), [Denis](#) to [Paris](#), [Austromoine](#) to [Clermont](#), and [Martial](#) to [Limoges](#). He also condemned Privatus, the originator of a new [heresy](#) in [Africa](#).<sup>[5]</sup>

The *Liber Pontificalis* says that Fabian divided the Christian communities of Rome into seven districts, each supervised by a [deacon](#). [Eusebius](#) (VI §43) adds that he appointed seven subdeacons to help collect the *acta* of the martyrs—the reports of the court proceedings on the occasion of their trials.<sup>[7]</sup> There is also a tradition that he instituted the four minor clerical orders: porter, lector, exorcist, and acolyte. However most scholars believe these offices evolved gradually and were formally instituted at a later date.<sup>[7]</sup>

His deeds are thus described in the *Liber Pontificalis*:

*Hic regiones dividit diaconibus et fecit vii subdiacones, qui vii notariis imminerent, Ut gestas martyrum integro fideliter colligerent, et multas fabricas per cymiteria fieri praecepit.* ("He divided the [regiones](#) into deaconships and made seven sub-deaconships which seven secretaries oversaw, so that they brought together the deeds of the martyrs faithfully made whole, and he brought forth many works in the cemeteries.")

The *Liberian Catalogue* of the popes also reports that Fabian initiated considerable work on the [catacombs](#), where honored Christians were interred, and where he also caused the body of Pontian to be entombed at the [catacomb of Callixtus](#).<sup>[4]</sup>

## **Martyrdom and legacy**

[Continued online](#)

