



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

FEAST OF MELANIA THE ELDER

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

From Wikipedia



Melania the Elder, Latin **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](#), [Jerome](#), [Augustine of Hippo](#), [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

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Wednesday, 7 June 9:30am

Announcements and Welcome

Rev. Allison Cornell

Salutation

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

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 you Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria—

H1982 #S-278

**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: 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 for the reading of the lessons*)

First Lesson: 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.”

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

The Psalm

Psalm: (119:65-72): (*read in unison*)

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: *(Please stand as you are able)*

Reader:

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?”

.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: Form VI— *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

People: **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

People: **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

People: **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

People: **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader: For reconciliation with Native American people

People: **For healing and justice with all who share this land.**

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

People: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

Leader: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Jennifer, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

People: For all who serve God in his Church.

Leader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

(The People may add their own petitions, aloud or silently)

Leader Hear us, Lord;

People For your mercy is great.

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

(The People may add their own thanksgivings, aloud or silently)

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;

People: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Leader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

(people remember those who have died)

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

People: Who put their trust in you.

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for *The Diocese of West Tennessee – The Episcopal Church.*

People: Lord, bless and keep them.

Leader: In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for *Santa Maria, in Phoenix*

People: Lord, bless and keep them.

Deacon: We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

(a short pause)

All: Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

(The Ministers and People exchange socially distant signs of peace (peace sign, namaste, virtual hug)

The Offertory:

Presider Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

Doxology #380 vs. 3 *(Peoples' offerings are brought to the altar*

All: ♪ **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**
 Praise him all creatures here below
 Praise him above ye heavenly host
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen. ♪

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving - *BCP Rite II Prayer C*

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

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation.

But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus

S#S124

**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

The Presider continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving:

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Sarah and Abraham, Rebekah and Isaac, Rachel and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Lord's Prayer: (Traditional)

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
bread

Fraction Anthem G#806 Eat this

Eat this bread, drink this cup come to him and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. The bread is gluten free. To intinct/dip your bread into the wine, please go to the left communion rail. To drink a sip from the cup of wine, please go to the right communion rail. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may choose either rail and then cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer *(The people stand as they are able.)*

Presider; Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Benediction/Blessing:

Presider: May the peace which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always. **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!)**

Continued from front

honour of [Rufinus of Aquileia](#), which belong to the earliest Christian communities, and because she promoted the asceticism which she, as a follower of [Origen](#), considered indispensable for salvation.^[1]

Life

Melania the Elder (ca. 350 - ca. 410) was born in [Hispania](#) and became one of the wealthiest citizens of the empire. Her father, Marcellinus, was of consular rank.^[5] and she was related to [Paulinus of Nola](#). She was married at fourteen, and moved with her husband (probably [Valerius Maximus signo Basilius](#) of the powerful patrician family of [gens Valeria](#), or 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 Diocæsarea in Palestine, 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]

She is regarded as a [saint](#).^[by whom?] Her [feast day](#) is June 8.^[10]

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.^[citation needed]

