



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

## **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

### **FEAST OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA**

**Wednesday, 2 August 9:30am**



*[From wikipedia](#)*

**Joseph of Arimathea** ([Ancient Greek](#): Ἰωσήφ ὁ ἀπὸ Ἀριμαθαίας) was, according to all four [canonical gospels](#), the man who assumed responsibility for the [burial of Jesus](#) after [his crucifixion](#). The historical location of [Arimathea](#) is uncertain, although it has been identified with several towns. A number of stories that developed during the [Middle Ages](#) connect him with [Glastonbury](#), England,<sup>[[b](#)]</sup> and also with the [Holy Grail](#) legend.

#### **Gospel narratives**

[Matthew 27](#) describes him<sup>[[a](#)]</sup> simply as a rich man and disciple of [Jesus](#), but according to [Mark 15](#), Joseph of Arimathea was "a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God".<sup>[[b](#)]</sup> [Luke 23](#) adds that he "had not consented to their decision and action".<sup>[[c](#)]</sup>

According to [John 19](#), upon hearing of [Jesus' death](#), this secret [disciple](#) [Continued Pg11](#)

**Announcements and Welcome**

**Rev. Allison Cornell**

## **Salutation**

**Celebrant:** Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

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

**Priest:** Let us pray a prayer of preparation together:

**All:** **Christ our true and transforming Light: receive our prayers, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no wrongful desires may distract or tempt us, who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace. Amen.**

## **Gloria: Venite**

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; \***

**let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \***

**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, \***

**and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \***

**and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it, \***

**and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \***

**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,**

**and we are the people of his pasture**

**and the sheep of his hand. \***

**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

## **The Collect of the day:**

**Presider** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Presider** Let us pray.

**All:** **Merciful God, whose servant Joseph of Arimathea with reverence and godly fear prepared the body of our Lord and Savior for burial and laid it in his own tomb: Grant to us, your faithful people, grace and courage to love and serve Jesus with sincere devotion all the days of our life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Word of God** —(*Please be seated for the reading of the lessons*)

**First Lesson: Jeremiah 45:1-5**

Hear, my child, and accept my words,  
that the years of your life may be many.  
I have taught you the way of wisdom;  
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.  
When you walk, your step will not be hampered;  
and if you run, you will not stumble.  
Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;  
guard her, for she is your life.  
Do not enter the path of the wicked,  
and do not walk in the way of evildoers.  
Avoid it; do not go on it;  
turn away from it and pass on.  
For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;  
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble.  
For they eat the bread of wickedness  
and drink the wine of violence.  
But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,  
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Reader The Word of the Lord                      **People**    **Thanks be to God**

**The Psalm**

**Psalm: 16:5-11**    (*read in unison*)

**5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; \*  
it is you who uphold my lot.**

**6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; \*  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**

**7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; \*  
my heart teaches me, night after night.**

**8 I have set the Lord always before me; \*  
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.**

**9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; \*  
my body also shall rest in hope.**

**10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, \***

**Nor let your holy one see the Pit.**

**11 You will show me the path of life; \*  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

**Gospel Lesson:** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
**Luke 23:50-56**

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

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## **HOMILY**

**CONTEMPORARY NICENE CREED:** *(please stand as you are able)*

**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: Hear our cry, O God and listen to our prayer.

**People: Hear us and help us, O God**

Leader: Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples in all the nations.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Enlighten your bishops, priests and deacons (especially Michael, Jennifer, Allison, Dottie, and Sherry) with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Give your people grace to witness to your word and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Strengthen those who stand for justice; comfort and help the fainthearted; raise up the fallen.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Guide the leaders of the nations into the ways of peace and justice.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Give to the Congress, the Courts, the President, and all others in authority the grace to walk always in the ways of truth, fairness, and equality.

**People: Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Give us the will to use the resources of the earth to your glory and

for the good of all.

**People:** **Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Heal the sick in body, mind or spirit and provide for the homeless, the hungry and the destitute.

**People:** **Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: Shower your compassion on prisoners, refugees, and all who are in any kind of trouble.

**People:** **Hear us and help us, we pray.**

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for *The Diocese of Warri – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

**People:** **Lord, bless and keep them.**

Leader: In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for *Church of the Nativity, in Scottsdale*

**People:** **Lord, bless and keep them.**

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tahona Odum peoples who call this area home.

**People:** **Lord, bless and keep them.**

### **The Confession:**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another:

**All:** **Holy and gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you this past week. Some of our sin we know—certain thoughts and words and deeds which we regret or are ashamed of. Some of which is known only to you. In your Holy Name we ask your forgiveness. Free us from our guilt and restore us to your grace that we may rest and live with peace of mind and cleanliness of heart. Amen.**

Presider: Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins, through Christ our Lord, **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 signs of peace—handshakes, peace signs, namaste, hugs. etc...)*

### **Offertory:**

Presider Let us show our gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe.

**The Doxology: #380 vs 3**

**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.**

**The Lord's Supper: The Great Thanksgiving - EOW 1**

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 our thanks and praise.**

*Presider continues:* 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 surrounded 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 say/sing:

**Sanctus**

**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.**

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.

Presider: And now as Jesus has taught us, we pray:

**CONTEMPORARY LORD'S PRAYER:**



**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. And 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread: (Presider breaks the consecrated bread)  
Fraction Anthem #341 vs 1:

For the bread which you have broken, for the  
wine which you have poured, for the words which you have  
spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

### **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: God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and**

**cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Benediction:**

Presider: The Wisdom of God, the Love of God, and the Grace of God strengthen you to be Christ's hands and heart in this world, in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**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 of Jesus "asked [Pilate](#) that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission."<sup>[d]</sup> Joseph immediately purchased a linen shroud<sup>[e]</sup> and proceeded to [Golgotha](#) to take [the body of Jesus down from the cross](#). There, according to John 19:39–40,<sup>[f]</sup> Joseph and [Nicodemus](#) took the body and bound it in linen cloths with the spices ([myrrh](#) and [aloes](#)) that Nicodemus had brought. [Luke 23:55-56](#) states that the women "who had come with him from Galilee" prepared the spices and ointments.

The disciples then conveyed the prepared corpse to a man-made cave hewn from rock in a garden nearby. The Gospel of Matthew alone suggests that this was Joseph's own tomb.<sup>[g]</sup> The burial was undertaken speedily, "for the Sabbath was drawing on".

## **Veneration**

Joseph of Arimathea by [Pietro Perugino](#), a detail from his *[Lamentation over the Dead Christ](#)*. Joseph of Arimathea is venerated as a [saint](#) by the [Catholic](#) and [Eastern Orthodox Churches](#), and in some [Protestant](#) traditions. The traditional Roman calendar marked his feast day on 17 March, but he is now listed, along with Saint Nicodemus, on 31 August in the *[Martyrologium Romanum](#)*. Eastern Orthodox churches commemorate him on the *Third Sunday of Pascha* (i.e., the second Sunday after Easter) and on 31 July, a date shared by [Lutheran churches](#).<sup>[4]</sup> He is included in the [Myrrhbearers](#).<sup>[5]</sup>

Although a series of legends developed during the [Middle Ages](#) (perhaps elaborations of early [New Testament apocrypha](#)) tied this Joseph to [Britain](#) as well as the Holy Grail, he is not currently on the abbreviated liturgical calendar of the [Church of England](#), although he is on the calendars of some churches of the [Anglican Communion](#), such as the [Episcopal Church](#), which commemorates him on 1 August.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

## **Old Testament prophecy**

Tomb of Jesus in the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](#)

Many Christians<sup>[6]</sup> interpret Joseph's role as fulfilling [Isaiah](#)'s prediction that the grave of the "Suffering Servant" would be with a rich man ([Isaiah](#) 53:9), assuming that Isaiah was referring to the [Messiah](#). The prophecy in [Isaiah chapter 53](#) is known as the "[Man of Sorrows](#)" passage: He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

The Greek [Septuagint](#) text:

And I will give the wicked for his burial, and the rich for his death; for he practiced no iniquity, nor craft with his mouth.

## **Development of legends**

Since the 2nd century, a mass of legendary detail has accumulated around the figure of Joseph of Arimathea in addition to the New Testament references. Joseph is referenced in apocryphal and non-canonical accounts such as the Acts of Pilate and the medieval [Gospel of Nicodemus](#). Joseph is mentioned in the works of early church historians such as [Irenaeus](#), [Hippolytus](#), [Tertullian](#), and [Eusebius](#), who added details not found in the canonical accounts. [Francis Gigot](#), writing in the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, states that "the additional details which are found concerning him in the apocryphal *Acta Pilati* ("Acts of Pilate"), are unworthy of credence."<sup>[7]</sup> [The Narrative of Joseph of Arimathea](#), a medieval work, is even purport-

[Cont. online](#)

