

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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



**Wednesday, 31 January 2024 9:30am**  
**The feast of Marcella of Rome**

*From [Wikipedia](#)*



**Marcella** (325–410) is a [saint](#) in the [Roman Catholic Church](#) and [Orthodox Church](#). She was a [Christian](#) ascetic in the Byzantine Era. *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* reports similarly, "She suffered bodily ill-treatment at the hands of the Goths when they captured Rome in 410 and died from its effects."<sup>[1]</sup> She is commemorated on 31 January.

## **Biography**

She came from a noble family who lived in a palace on the [Aventine Hill](#). Growing up in Rome, she was influenced by her pious mother, Albina, an educated woman of wealth and benevolence. Marcella was but a child when the exiled bishop [Athanasius of Alexandria](#) visited.<sup>[2]</sup>

After her husband's early death, Marcella decided to devote the rest of her life to [charity](#),

[Continued Pg11](#)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Rev. Allison Cornell**

## The Greeting

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

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

Presider “Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”—Isaiah 60: 3.

Gloria: The Song of Simeon Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Let us pray.*

**All: O God, who satisfies the longing soul and fills the hungry with good things: Grant that we, like your servant Marcella, may hunger and thirst after you above the vain pomp and glory of the world, and delight in your word above all manner of riches; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Lessons from Scripture** *(Please be seated)*

### **New Testament: A reading from 1 Kings (17:8-16):**

The word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you." So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Reader The Word of the Lord

**People Thanks be to God**

### **The Psalm:**

#### **Psalm 124**

- 1 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;**
- 2 If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;**
- 3 Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;**
- 4 Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;**
- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.**
- 6 Blessed be the Lord! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.**

**7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.**

**8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

**Gospel Lesson:**

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to  
**Mark (12:41-44):**

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

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

## **Sermon/Meditation**

## **Nicene Creed** *(Traditional)*

**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**

Leader: Let us pray to God, who is made manifest in Jesus Christ. As the prophet Isaiah rang out, “Arise, shine; for your light has come”;

**People: Empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.**

Leader: As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child;

**People: send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.**

Leader: As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan,

**People: we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.**

Leader: Like the Magi who traveled from afar to bring gifts and celebrate the Savior's birth;

**People: we pray for this community, and for those who celebrate their own birthdays and anniversaries and other happy occasions.**

Leader: As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world;

**People: we pray for healing of the sick and comfort for the distressed, relief for the poor, and good news for the desperate.**

Leader: As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, everything of their former life, and follow him;

**People: we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus into your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace.**

Leader: In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for **The Diocese of Caledonia – The Anglican Church of Canada**. In the diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for **St. Raphael in the Valley, Benson**. With honor and respect we remember the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tohono O'odham, who call this area home.

**People: May God bless and keep them healthy and protected.**

Presider: Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. **Amen.**

## Exchange of the Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

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

## Offertory

Presider: Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name.

## The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer B BCP p. 367

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:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*All:* *Sanctus - Hymnal 1982 #S-125*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosana in the highest, Hosana in the highest  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosana in the highest, Hosana in the highest**

*The people stand, sit, or kneel.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."*

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts (+) that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (+) by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord,



the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

**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.**

### **Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread**

*(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

### **Fraction Anthem**

**H1982 # S-155**

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

### **Invitation to Communion:**

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

*(In this church, everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Gluten free bread and real wine are used. If you prefer to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to take a sip of wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you prefer to receive a priest blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest. .*

Presider: Let us pray: *Presider and People*

**Lord Jesus Christ, by your incarnation you united things earthly and things heavenly. Fill us with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill, that we may join the heavenly host in singing praises to your glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

*The Presider says*

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. And may Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **The Dismissal:**

Deacon: *Let us go forth in the peace and spirit of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!*

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

Continued from front

[prayer](#), and [mortification of the flesh](#). According to Butler, "Having lost her husband in the seventh month of her marriage, she rejected the suit of Cerealis the consul, uncle of [Gallus Cæsar](#), and resolved to imitate the lives of the ascetics of the East. She abstained from wine and flesh, employed all her time in pious reading, prayer, and visiting the churches of the apostles and martyrs, and never spoke with any man alone."<sup>[3]</sup>

[Pammachius](#), a close friend and correspondent of [Jerome's](#), was her cousin.<sup>[4]</sup> He was also a cousin of [Paula of Rome](#).<sup>[5]</sup> Pammachius married Paula's second daughter, [Paulina](#).<sup>[6]</sup> Marcella's palatial home became a center of Christian activity. She and her mother Albina formed a group of religious women in their home, inspired by eastern monks. Paula's third daughter, [Eustochium](#), was part of this group. The house is supposed to have stood close to the present site of [Santa Sabina](#) and became a refuge for weary pilgrims and for the poor. An associate of Marcella named [Lea](#) was also a wealthy widow and supported the house run by Marcella.<sup>[7]</sup>

In 382, [Pope Damasus I](#) called [Jerome](#) to Rome, where he became the pope's confidential secretary. Damasus arranged lodging for him at Marcella's hospitality house. Jerome gave readings and lectures to Marcella's community and friends.<sup>[2]</sup> It was at the home of Marcella that Jerome first met Paula.

When Paula and her daughter [Eustochium](#) left Rome for the Holy Land, they asked Marcella to join them, but she chose to remain in Rome to tend to her growing community. She and her student Principia moved from the palace to a smaller house on the Aventine.<sup>[8]</sup>

When the [Goths](#) invaded in 410, she was brutalized. Convinced that she had hidden treasure, which she had long before distributed among the poor, she was scourged and beaten with cudgels. Other soldiers arrived who had "some reverence for holy things". They escorted Marcella and Principia to the church of St. Paul,--one of those which had been named by [Alaric](#) as a sanctuary for all who chose to take advantage of it. Exhausted and injured, Marcella died of her wounds shortly thereafter.<sup>[8]</sup>

## **Correspondence from Jerome**

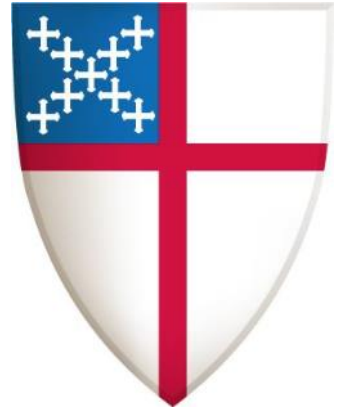
In modern collections of Jerome's letters, we find many letters to Marcella (Letters 23, 25, 26, 29, 34, 127). Almost a third of all the extant letters from Jerome were addressed to women. Thomas Lawler, notes, "Marcella is by far the woman most frequently addressed, quite likely because of her leading position in that celebrated circle of religious-minded women that met at her house on the Aventine."<sup>[9]</sup> Most of what we know about Marcella is from the letters of Jerome, most famously his letter 127 to Principia.<sup>[10]</sup> It was written on the occasion of Marcella's death, paying tribute to her life and consoling her beloved student. In it, he says the following about his relationship with Marcella:

*As in those days my name was held in some renown as that of a student of the Scriptures, she never came to see me without asking me some questions about them, nor would she rest content at once, but on the contrary would dispute them; this, however, was not for the sake of argument, but to learn by questioning the answers to such objections might, as she saw, be raised. How much virtue and intellect, how much holiness and purity I found in her I am afraid to say, both lest I may exceed the bounds of men's belief and lest I may increase your sorrow by reminding you of the blessings you have lost. This only will I say, that whatever I had gathered together by long study, and by constant meditation made part of my nature, she tasted, she learned and made her own.*<sup>[11]</sup>

*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.*



2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
<https://ststephensaz.org>  
 520-458-4432



## ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Rector:** Allison Cornell  
 Off. Phone: 520-458-4432  
 Mobile: 562-743-3784

[RevAllison@ststephensaz.org](mailto:RevAllison@ststephensaz.org)

**Parish Administrator**

Mark Sowards  
 Off. Phone 520-458-4432  
 Mobile: 408-892-1062

[mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org](mailto:mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org)

Office Fax: 520-458-8237

**Deacon**  
 Dorothy Gutwein  
 Hm: 520-515-9183  
[dottie85635@gmail.com](mailto:dottie85635@gmail.com)

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

**Vestry Staff**

**Senior Warden:**  
 Jeff Speer  
[jeffrey5454speer@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey5454speer@gmail.com)  
 Cell:(520) 678-5688

**Junior warden:**  
 Pete Criscuolo  
[petesacct2014@gmail.com](mailto:petesacct2014@gmail.com)  
 Cell: 520-234-7687

**& Timothy Holsonback**  
[holsonback@cox.net](mailto:holsonback@cox.net)  
 520/459-1937

**Treasurer:**  
 Anne Roth  
 Cell:303/917-8151  
[avd.roth@comcast.net](mailto:avd.roth@comcast.net)

Please leave voicemail message

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_