

THE EASTER SEASON



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 IN EASTER WEEK

THE FEAST OF MARY OF EGYPT

Wednesday, 3 April 2024, 10 AM

From [Wikipedia](#)



Mary of Egypt ([Greek](#): Μαρία η Αιγυπτία ; [Coptic](#): [Egyptian Arabic](#): مريم المصرية/ماريا المصرية) would have been an [Egyptian grazer saint](#) dwelling in [Palestine](#) during [Late antiquity](#) or the [Early Middle Ages](#). She is highly venerated as a [Desert Mother](#) in the [Eastern Orthodox](#) and [Coptic Churches](#). The [Catholic Church](#) commemorates her as a [patron saint](#) of [penitents](#).

She is exclusively known through the [hagiographical](#) account of her life, a narrative in Greek written by [Sophronius of Jerusalem](#) in the [7th century](#). Her existence is uncertain and has been questioned by some historians.

Life

[Icon](#) of Saint Mary of Egypt, surrounded by scenes from her life (17th century, [Beliy Gorod](#)).

The primary source of information on Saint

[Continued Pg11](#)

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

Salutation

Presider: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

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 Fa-
ther,**

**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: Merciful Lord, who raises up sinners by your boundless
compassion and mercy: Cause the desert sun to burn away our
coarseness and to melt our hardness of heart, that, like your servant
Mary of Egypt, we may not depart from this life until we
understand the ways of repentance and the benefits of prayer;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word: *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

First Lesson: A Reading from the Book Hebrews (11:32-40):

What more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-- who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented-- of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

The Psalm:

Psalm: 91:9-16 (read in unison)

**9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,**

**10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.**

**11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.**

**12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

**13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.**

**14 Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; ***

I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

**15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;**

I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

**16 With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.**

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

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John (8:1–11):**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

Deacon: 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

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the beauty of the earth:

**People: in the rhythm of the seasons, in the mystery of time and space,
Alleluia**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the tenderness of touch

People: in the heartbeat of intimacy, in the insights of solitude, Alleluia

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the creative possibility

**People: of the hardest conversation, of the dreariest task, of the most
threatening event, Alleluia**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - to offer re-creation

**People: to every unhealed hurt, to every deadened place, to every damaged
Heart, Alleluia.**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive – to give us encouragement

**People: to face our fears, to wrestle with our doubts, to overcome our
disappointments, Alleluia.**

Leader: You set before us a great choice, death in our souls without you or Life
abundantly and eternally with you.

People: Therefore, we choose life.

Leader: The dance of resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation,

**People: This is your grace through which we live. So let us live fully and
thankfully. Alleluia.**

The Peace:

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you**

The Offertory:

Presider Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as an offering and sacrifice to God.

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 Holy Communion - *The Great Thanksgiving BCP Rite 2A*

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.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Pascal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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

Sanctus -

Hymnal 1982 #S-128

**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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit (+) to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also (+) that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 for ever. **AMEN.**

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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 (*Presider breaks the consecrated bread*)

Fraction Anthem : Hymnal 1982 #S-154

(Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.)

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

(Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.)

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose again for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. We have two different ways to receive communion. First way = go to the right of the altar, receive the bread, eat the bread, then take a sip of wine from the cup. Second way = go to the left of the altar, receive the bread, dip the bread in the wine in the cup and then eat the bread. If you are not ready to receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead. Bread is gluten free).

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

Presider; Let us pray.

All: **Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing, in the name of the 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 Mary of Egypt is the *Vita* written of her by [Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem](#) (634–638).^[3] Most of the information in this section is taken from this source.

Mary of Egypt, also known as Maria Aegyptiaca, was born somewhere in the [Province of Egypt](#), and at the age of twelve ran away from her parents to the city of [Alexandria](#). There, she lived an extremely dissolute life.^[4] In her *Vita* it states that she often refused the money offered for her sexual favors, as she was driven "by an insatiable and an irrepressible passion", and that she mainly lived by begging, supplemented by [spinning flax](#).

After seventeen years of this lifestyle, she traveled to [Jerusalem](#) for the [Great Feasts](#) of the [Exaltation of the Holy Cross](#). She undertook the journey as a sort of "anti-pilgrimage", stating that she hoped to find in the pilgrim crowds at Jerusalem even more partners to sate her lust. She paid for her passage by offering sexual favors to other [pilgrims](#), and she briefly continued her habitual lifestyle in Jerusalem. Her *Vita* relates that when she tried to enter the [Church of the Holy Sepulchre](#) for the celebrations, she was barred by an unseen force. Realizing this was because of her impurity, she was struck with remorse, and upon seeing an [icon](#) of the [Theotokos](#) (the [Virgin Mary](#)) outside the church, she prayed for forgiveness and promised to give up the world (i.e., become an [ascetic](#)). She attempted again to enter the church, and this time was able to go in. After venerating the [relic](#) of the [True Cross](#), she returned to the icon to give thanks, and heard a voice telling her, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find glorious rest." She immediately went to the [monastery](#) of Saint [John the Baptist](#) on the banks of the [River Jordan](#), where she received [absolution](#) and afterwards [Holy Communion](#). The next morning, she crossed the Jordan eastwards and retired to the desert to live the rest of her life as a [hermit](#) in penitence. She took with her only three loaves of bread she had bought, and once she had eaten these, lived only on what she could find in the wilderness.^[5]

Approximately one year before her death, she recounted her life to [Zosimas of Palestine](#),^[6] who encountered her in the desert. When he unexpectedly met her in the desert, she was completely naked and almost unrecognizable as human. She asked Zosimas to toss her his [mantle](#) to cover herself with, and then she narrated her life's story to him. She asked him to meet her at the banks of the Jordan on [Holy Thursday](#) of the following year, and to bring her Holy Communion. When he fulfilled her wish, she crossed the river to get to him by walking on the water, and received Holy Communion, telling him to meet her again in the desert the following Lent.

The next year, Zosimas went to the same spot where he first met her, some twenty days' journey from his monastery. There, he found her lying dead; an inscription written in the sand next to her head stated that she had died the very night he had given her Communion, her [incorrupt](#) body miraculously transported to that spot. He buried her body with the assistance of a passing [lion](#). On returning to his monastery, he related her life story to the other brethren, and it was preserved among them as [oral tradition](#) until it was written down by Sophronius.

Date of death

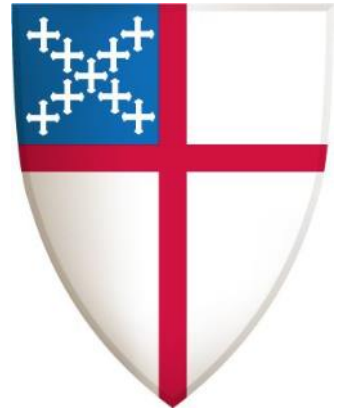
[More online](#)

There is disagreement among various sources regarding the dates of Mary's life. Some scholars doubt her existence, on the grounds of the similarity of her *Vita* to the stories of other "desert mothers": "[I]t is impossible to provide a chronology for the life of Mary, or even to establish her historicity."^[7] The dates given above correspond to those in the [Catholic Encyclopedia](#). The [Bollandists](#) place her death in 421, or 530 (see *Prolog from Ohrid*, 1 April). The only clue given in her *Vita* is the fact that the day of her repose was 1 April, which is stated to be [Holy](#)

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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 _____

Anv. Date _____

Email: _____ BrthDate _____

Adrs: _____

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