

The Season After PENTECOST

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

FEAST OF HELENA OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Wednesday, 22 May 2024, 9:30 AM

From [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)



Flavia Julia Helena^[a] (/ˈhɛlənə/; Greek: Ἑλένη, *Helénē*; c. AD 246/248–330), also known as **Helena of Constantinople** and in Christianity as **Saint Helena**,^[b] was an *Augusta* of the [Roman Empire](#) and mother of Emperor [Constantine the Great](#). She was born in the lower classes^[2] traditionally in the Greek city of Drepanon, [Bithynia](#), in [Asia Minor](#), which was renamed [Helenopolis](#) in her honor, although several locations have been proposed for her birthplace and origin.

Helena ranks as an important figure in the [history of Christianity](#). In her final years, she made a religious tour of [Syria Palaestina](#) and [Jerusalem](#), during which ancient tradition claims that she discovered the [True Cross](#). The [Eastern Orthodox Church](#), [Catholic Church](#), [Oriental Orthodox Churches](#), [Anglican Communion](#), and the [Lutheran Church](#) revere her as a [saint](#).

Early life

[Continued Pg11](#)

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

Entrance Rites - The people stand as they are able.

Opening Acclamation:

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

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

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.**

Salutation

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

Collect of the Day:

**Most Merciful God, who blessed your servant Helena with such
grace and devotion to you that she venerated the very footsteps of our
Savior; Grant unto us the same grace that, aided by her prayers and
example, we also may always behold your glory in the cross of your Son.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

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

First Lesson: A Reading from Micah (4:1–4):

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,
and many nations shall come and say:

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;

they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more;

but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm:

Psalm 2 (read in unison)

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? ***
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together, ***
against the Lord and against his Anointed?
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; ***

"let us cast off their bonds from us."

4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the Lord has them in derision.

5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.

6 "I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion."

7 Let me announce the decree of the
Lord: *

he said to me, "You are my
Son;

this day have I begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and I will give you the
nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for
your possession.

9 You shall crush them with an iron
rod *
and shatter them like a piece of
pottery."

10 And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the
earth.

11 Submit to the Lord with fear, *
and with trembling bow before
him;

12 Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly
kindled.

13 Happy are they all *
who take refuge in him!

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

Deacon: Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to: **Luke(23:26-32):**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

As they led Jesus away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

HOMILY

Nicene Creed All say together (CONTEMPORARY VERSION)

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 (Form 1, edited, BCP pp. 383-385)

Leader: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God,

People: and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,

People: and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: For our Bishops, priests, and deacons, and for all ministers

People: and for people doing God's will, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: For our President, for the leaders of the nations,

People: and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: For this city of Sierra Vista, for every city and community,

People: and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth,

People: For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, for the sick and the suffering, for the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives,

People: and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection,

People: and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation,

People: For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: That we may end our lives in faith and hope,

People: without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: Defend us, deliver us, and in your compassion protect us, O Lord, with your grace.

People: In the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to you Holy and Living God. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that influences us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you

All And also with you.

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Presider: I appeal to you, friends, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

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

EOW 2

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 praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

People: You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

Presider: And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

All: Hymnal #S124

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.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.

He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.

He yearned to draw all the world to himself; yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, 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. Again, he gave thanks to you, 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."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new Creation (+), the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with St. Stephen and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, forever and ever. **AMEN**
And now as Jesus 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.

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 G#830 Refrain Only: Seed Scattered and Sown

**See, scattered and sown, Wheat gathered and grown
Bread, broken and shared as one, the living bread of God**

Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands

One cup that is shared by all

The living cup, the living bread of God.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: These are the gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.

All are welcome and invited to come to The Lord's Table and receive communion in this church. It is gluten free bread and real wine. To dip/intinct your bread into the wine and then consume it, please come to the left altar rail. To eat your bread and then sip wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest and we will give you a blessing.).

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, and Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray:

**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 for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Benediction:

Presider: And now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with all of you now and forever.. **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!)

Sources agree that Helena was a [Greek](#), probably from [Asia Minor](#) in modern [Turkey](#). Her birthplace is not known with certainty, but [Helenopolis](#), then Drepanum, in [Bithynia](#) is, following [Procopius](#), "generally assumed" to be the place.^[3] Her name is attested on coins as Flavia Helena, Flavia Julia Helena and sometimes Aelena.^{[4][c]} [Joseph Vogt](#) suggested that the name Helena was typical for the [Greek-speaking part of the Roman Empire](#) and that therefore her place of origin should be looked for in the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire.^[8] The 6th-century historian [Procopius](#) is the earliest authority for the statement that Helena was a native of Drepanum, in the province of [Bithynia](#) in [Asia Minor](#). The name Helena appears in all areas of the Empire, but is not epigraphically attested in inscriptions of Bithynia (Helena's proposed region of origin) and it was also common in Latin-speaking areas. Procopius lived much later than the era he was describing and his description may have been actually intended as an etymological explanation about the toponym *Helenopolis*.^[8] On the other hand, her son Constantine renamed the city "[Helenopolis](#)" after her death around AD 330, which supports the belief that the city was indeed her birthplace.^[9] The Byzantinist [Cyril Mango](#) has, however, argued that Helenopolis was refounded to strengthen the communication network around Constantine's new capital in [Constantinople](#), and was renamed simply to honor Helena, not to necessarily mark her birthplace.^[10] There was also a [Helenopolis in Palestine](#)^[11] and a [Helenopolis in Lydia](#).^[12] These cities, and the province of [Helenopontus](#) in the Pontus, were probably all named after Constantine's mother.^[9] Two other locations in France and the [Pyrenees](#) have been named after Helena.^[8] Equally uncertain to Drepanum and without strong documentation suggestions about her birthplace are: [Naissus](#) (central Balkans), Caphar or [Edessa](#) ([Mesopotamia](#)), [Trier](#).^[8]

The bishop and historian [Eusebius of Caesarea](#) states that Helena was about 80 on her return from Palestine.^[13] Since that journey has been dated to 326–28, she was probably born around 246 to 249.^{[14][15]} Information about her social background universally suggests that she came from the lower classes. Fourth-century sources, following [Eutropius'](#) *Breviarium*, record that she came from a humble background. Bishop [Ambrose](#) of Milan, writing in the late 4th century was the first to call her a *stabularia*, a term translated as "stable-maid" or "inn-keeper". He makes this comment a virtue, calling Helena a *bona stabularia*, a "good stable-maid",^[16] probably to contrast her with the general suggestion of sexual laxness considered typical of that group.^[17] Other sources, especially those written after Constantine's proclamation as emperor, gloss over or ignore her background.^[14]

Both [Geoffrey of Monmouth](#) and [Henry of Huntingdon](#) promoted a popular tradition that Helena was a British princess and the daughter of "[Old King Cole](#)" from the area of [Colchester](#). This led to the later dedication of 135 churches in England to her, many in around the area of [Yorkshire](#),^[18] and revived as a suggestion in the 20th century in the novel by [Evelyn Waugh](#).

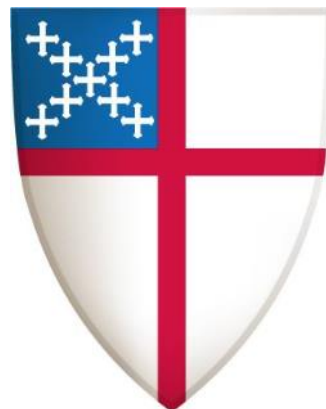
Marriage to Emperor Constantius

It is unknown where she first met [Constantius](#).^[19] The historian [Timothy Barnes](#) has suggested that [Constantius](#), while serving under Emperor [Aurelian](#), could have met her while stationed in Asia Minor for the campaign against [Zenobia](#). It is said that upon meeting they were wearing identical silver bracelets; [Constantius](#) saw her as his divinely-sent soulmate. Barnes calls attention to an epitaph at [Nicomedia](#) of one of Aurelian's protectors, which could indicate the emperor's presence in the Bithynian region soon after AD 270.^[20] The precise legal nature of

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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 _____

Avn. Date _____

Email: _____ BrthDate _____

Adrs: _____

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