

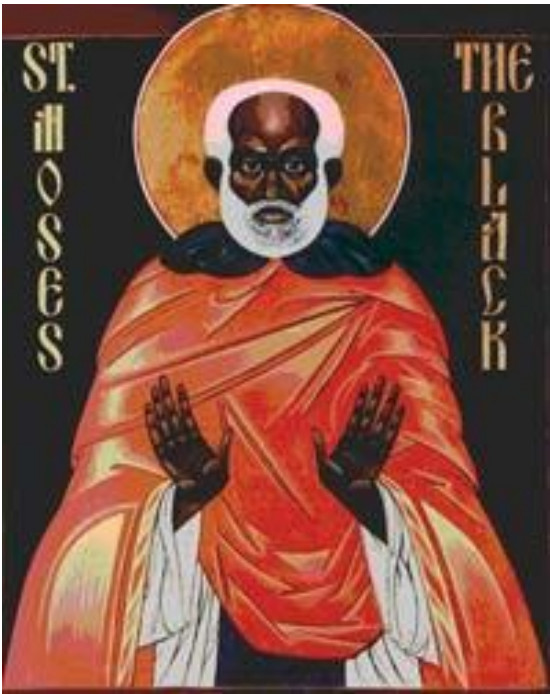
# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

## 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 MOSES THE BLACK

Wednesday 3 July 2024 9:30 AM



From [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

**Moses the Black** (**Greek**: Μωϋσῆς ὁ Αἰθίοψ, **romanized**: *Mōūsēs ho Aithíops*, **Arabic**: موسى, **Coptic** .(405 – □□□□□; 330 :also known as **Moses the Strong**, **Moses the Robber**, and **Moses the Ethiopian**, was an **ascetic** monk and priest in **Egypt** in the fourth century AD, and a **Desert Father**. He is highly venerated in the **Eastern Orthodox Church** and the **Oriental Orthodox Church**. According to stories about him, he converted from a life of crime to one of asceticism. He is mentioned in **Sozomen's Ecclesiastical History**, written about 70 years after Moses's death.

### **Biography**

#### **Early life**

Moses was a slave of a government official in **Egypt** until he was dismissed for theft and suspected murder. He then roamed the Nile

[Continued Pg 11](#)

**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

Salutation

**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.**

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray

**Collect of the Day:**

**Almighty God, whose blessed Son guides our footsteps in the way of  
peace: Deliver us from the paths of hatred and violence, that we,  
following the example of your servant Moses, may serve you with  
singleness of heart and attain to the tranquility of the world to come;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

### **First Lesson: A Reading from Bel and the 2 Chronicles (28:8–15):**

The people of Israel took captive two hundred thousand of their kin, women, sons, and daughters; they also took much booty from them and brought the booty to Samaria. But a prophet of the Lord was there, whose name was Oded; he went out to meet the army that came to Samaria, and said to them, “Because the Lord, the God of your ancestors, was angry with Judah, he gave them into your hand, but you have killed them in a rage that has reached up to heaven. Now you intend to subjugate the people of Judah and Jerusalem, male and female, as your slaves. But what have you except sins against the Lord your God? Now hear me, and send back the captives whom you have taken from your kindred, for the fierce wrath of the Lord is upon you.” Moreover, certain chiefs of the Ephraimites, Azariah son of Johanan, Berechiah son of Meshillemoth, Jehizkiah son of Shallum, and Amasa son of Hadlai, stood up against those who were coming from the war, and said to them, “You shall not bring the captives in here, for you propose to bring on us guilt against the Lord in addition to our present sins and guilt. For our guilt is already great, and there is fierce wrath against Israel.” So the warriors left the captives and the booty before the officials and all the assembly. Then those who were mentioned by name got up and took the captives, and with the booty they clothed all that were naked among them; they clothed them, gave them sandals, provided them with food and drink, and anointed them; and carrying all the feeble among them on donkeys, they brought them to their kindred at Jericho, the city of palm trees. Then they returned to Samaria.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **The Psalm:**

**Psalm 86:1-13 (read in unison)**

- 1 Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, \*  
for I am poor and in misery.**
- 2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; \*  
save your servant who puts his trust in you.**
- 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; \*  
I call upon you all the day long.**
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, \*  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, \*  
and great is your love toward all who call upon you.**
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, \*  
and attend to the voice of my supplications.**
- 7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, \*  
for you will answer me.**
- 8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, \*  
nor anything like your works.**
- 9 All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord, \*  
and glorify your Name.**
- 10 For you are great;  
you do wondrous things; \*  
and you alone are God.**
- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord,  
and I will walk in your truth; \*  
knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.**
- 12 I will thank you, O Lord my God,  
with all my heart, \*  
and glorify your Name for evermore.**
- 13 For great is your love toward me; \*  
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit**

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

Deacon: Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to: **Luke (23:39-43):**

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

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding Jesus and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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 in your unending loving-kindness we lift up to you:

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: *The Diocese of Gombe – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).*

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer: *St. Mark's, in Mesa.*

And we pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache peoples who called this area home. May we continue to support one another in love and empathy. Come, Spirit of Truth,

**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

**Seed, 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!)**

Continued from front:

Valley with an infamous and violent gang of 75 robbers.<sup>[3]</sup> Moses was a man of huge physical stature, strength and courage, and became leader of this gang of robbers that became a social menace and living terror to the communities where they roamed.<sup>[4]</sup>

## **Conversion to Christianity**

On one occasion, a barking dog prevented Moses from carrying out a robbery, so he swore vengeance on the owner. In a second attempt, with a sword in his mouth, Moses swam across the Nile towards the owner's hut. The owner, again alerted, was able to hide, and the frustrated Moses stole four of his sheep and took them to slaughter, selling their fleece in exchange for wine.<sup>[5][6]</sup> Attempting to hide from local authorities, he took shelter with some [monks](#) in a colony in the desert of [Wadi El Natrun](#), then called Scetis, near [Alexandria](#). The dedication of their lives, as well as their peace and contentment, influenced Moses deeply. He soon gave up his old way of life, became a [Christian](#), was baptized and joined the [monastic community](#) at Scetis.<sup>[4]</sup>

## **Monastic life**

Moses had a rather difficult time adjusting to regular monastic discipline. His flair for adventure remained with him. Attacked by a group of robbers in his desert cell, Moses fought back, overpowered the intruders, and dragged them to the chapel where the other monks were at prayer. He told the brothers that he did not think it was [Christian](#) to hurt the robbers and asked what he should do with them. The robbers themselves repented and joined the community as brothers afterwards. Moses was zealous in all he did, but became discouraged when he concluded he was not perfect enough. Feeling overcome by despair and once again tempted by his former passions, early one morning, Isidore, abbot of the [monastery](#), took Moses to the roof. Together they watched the first rays of dawn come over the horizon, and Isidore said to Moses, "Only slowly do the rays of the sun drive away the night and usher in a new day, and thus, only slowly does one become a perfect contemplative."<sup>[3][5]</sup>

Moses proved to be effective as a prophetic spiritual leader. The abbot ordered the brothers to fast during a particular week. Some brothers came to Moses, and he prepared a meal for them. Neighboring monks reported to the abbot that Moses was breaking the fast. When they came to confront Moses, they changed their minds, saying, "You did not keep a human commandment, but it was so that you might keep the divine commandment of hospitality." Some see in this account one of the earliest allusions to the Paschal fast, which developed at this time.

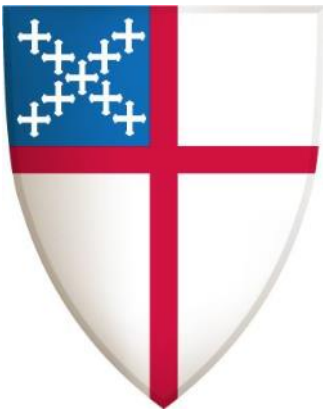
When a brother committed a fault and Moses was invited to a meeting to discuss an appropriate penance, Moses refused to attend. When he was again called to the meeting, Moses took a leaking jug filled with water and carried it on his shoulder. Another version of the story has him carrying a basket filled with sand. When he arrived at the meeting place, the others asked why he was carrying the jug. He replied, "My sins run out behind me and I do not see them, but today I am coming to judge the errors of another." On hearing this, the assembled brothers forgave the erring monk.<sup>[4]</sup>

Moses became the spiritual leader of a colony of [hermits](#) in the [Western Desert](#). Later, he was ordained a priest.<sup>[3]</sup>

## **Death**

At about age 75, about the year 405 AD, word came that the

[Continued online](#)



# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*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.*

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Hm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Anv. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_ BrthDate \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_