

# *The Season After* PENTECOST

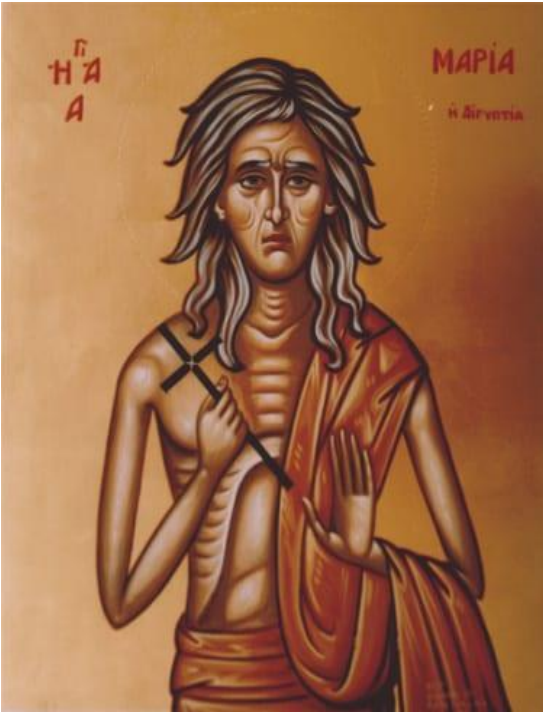
## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

### FEAST OF MARYAM OF QIDUN

Wednesday 30 Oct 2024 9:30 AM

From Forward Movement



### MARYAM OF QIDUN, Monastic, 4th century

Maryam of Qidun is one of the most popular Syriac Christian saints. The drama of her life story easily lends itself to fictionalized interpretations, and multiple accounts of her life were produced. There nevertheless does seem to be a historical person in the background of all of these accounts, who became the inspiration for all of these legends.

Maryam grew up in a Christian family and was orphaned at the age of 7. Her only living relative was an uncle named Abraham who lived as a hermit in the desert near Qidun, a village outside of Edessa. Despite the seeming oddity of an anchorite serving as the guardian for a young girl, therefore, she was given to him to raise. For twenty years, she lived an ascetic life in her own room in his dwelling, growing deeply in holiness and prayer, teaching those who came to seek her wisdom through a window, and

[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: Hymnal 1982 S#280 Glory to God**

**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  
Father,**

**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.

**The Collect:**

**All: O God of holiness and strength, rescue us from the sins that ensnare  
us and destroy the evils that defame us, that, like your servant Maryam  
of Qidun, we may find our own selves inseparable from your love made  
known in Christ Jesus our Lord; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives  
and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.**

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

**First Lesson: Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9:**

When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.

The more I called them,  
the more they went from me;

they kept sacrificing to the Baals,  
and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to  
walk,

I took them up in my arms;  
but they did not know that I  
healed them.

I led them with cords of human  
kindness,  
with bands of love.

I was to them like those  
who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed  
them.

How can I give you up, Ephraim?  
How can I hand you over, O  
Israel?

Reader The Word of the Lord

### **Psalm 31: 15-24**

**15 My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of  
my enemies,  
and from those who persecute  
me.**

**16 Make your face to shine upon  
your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness  
save me."**

**17 Lord, let me not be ashamed  
for having called upon you; \*  
rather, let the wicked be put  
to shame;  
let them be silent in the  
grave.**

**18 Let the lying lips be silenced  
which speak against the  
righteous, \*  
haughtily, disdainfully, and  
with contempt.**

How can I make you like Admah?  
How can I treat you like  
Zeboiim?

My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and  
tender.

I will not execute my fierce anger;  
I will not again destroy Ephraim;  
for I am God and no mortal,  
the Holy One in your midst,  
and I will not come in wrath.

People Thanks be to God

**19 How great is your goodness, O  
Lord!**

**which you have laid up for  
those who fear you; \*  
which you have done in the  
sight of all  
for those who put their  
trust in you.**

**20 You hide them in the covert of  
your presence from those who  
lander them; \*  
you keep them in your  
shelter from the strife of  
tongues.**

**21 Blessed be the Lord! \*  
for he has shown me the  
wonders of his love in a  
besieged city.**

**22 Yet I said in my alarm,  
"I have been cut off from  
the sight of your eyes." \*  
Nevertheless, you heard the**

**sound of my entreaty  
when I cried out to you.**

**23 Love the Lord, all you who  
worship him; \*  
the Lord protects the  
faithful,**

**but repays to the full those  
who act haughtily.**

**24 Be strong and let your heart  
take courage, \*  
all you who wait for the  
Lord.**

## **Second Lesson: Romans 8:31-39:**

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord

**People Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Lesson:**

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.**

## SERMON

**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:** - *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Leader: Help us, O God our Savior;

**People: Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Leader: Look upon your congregation;

**People: Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Leader: Declare your glory among the nations;

**People: And your wonders among all peoples.**

Leader: Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

**People: Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Leader: Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

**People: And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Leader: Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

**People: So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

**Leader:** In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for *St. Anthony on the Desert, in Scottsdale.*

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for *The Diocese of Karnataka Central – \The Church of South India (United).*

We pray also for the first peoples of this land especially the Apache and the Tohono O’Odom peoples who call this area their home

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

Leader: During the current election cycle we also pray, O Lord mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do;

**People: that they may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them.**

Leader: Lord, direct us in all our doings with your most gracious favor and further us with your continual help;

**People: that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your Holy Name.**

Leader: We lift these prayers to you through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit , one God, forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin**

Deacon: Let us confess our sins to God.

**All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen. 6**

## **Absolution**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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.

## **Offertory**

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

Doxology #380 vs 3 (*Peoples' offerings are brought to the altar*)

**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.**

## Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving -

*EOW 3*

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: All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;

And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings

and all creation as we shout with joy:

*Presider and People: Sanctus Missa Pacem*

The image shows a musical score for a Sanctus. It consists of seven staves of music in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a 4-measure rest. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the



remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us (+) and upon these gifts of bread and wine (+) that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you, our God and Creator, in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

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

*(Traditional)* **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**      *Fraction Agnus Dei—Lamb of God Missa Pacem*

*Cantor or choir:*      *All:*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

*Repeat as needed*

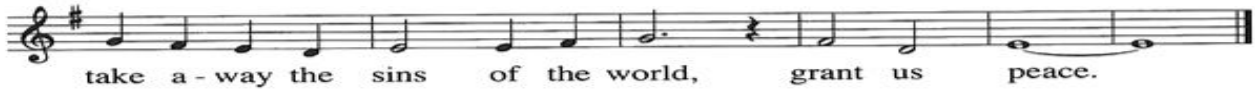
world, have mer - cy on us.

*Last time*      *Cantor or choir:*

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

*All:*

world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



## Invitation to Communion:

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

*{Everyone is welcome and invited to come forward and receive the bread and wine in this church. Our bread is gluten/nut free. It is real wine. To intinct/dip your bread into the wine, please go to the left altar rail. To eat the bread and then sip wine from the cup please go to the right altar rail. If you are not ready to take communion at this time, you may come forward and cross you arms over your chest to receive a blessing instead. }*

## Prayers For:

**Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitude Sharing**  
**Post Communion Prayer** *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider Let us Pray

**All: Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## Benediction:

Presider: Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a devoted parent. Go in peace to follow the good road and may the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always. **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:

being praised and admired by all who met her.

However, there was a monk who desired her, and who used to come to the hermitage every day on the pretext of speaking with Abraham in order to see her. One day when her uncle was out, the monk seduced her. Afterwards, she fell into despair about the possibility of her salvation, for she had always been admired for her purity and holiness, and had felt secure in those things. Deeply shaken, she thought: “How can I ever again raise my eyes up to heaven when I cannot even bring myself to look at my uncle?” Rather than face him and confess her sin to him, she ran away to the city and began to work as a prostitute in a tavern.

After two years of frantic searching, her uncle discovered where she was living, and he borrowed a soldier’s uniform and a horse. He covered his face with the helm, and set off for the tavern. When he saw her dressed as a prostitute and flirting with the customers he wanted to weep, but he concealed his emotions lest she recognize him and run away. Although he had not touched wine or cooked food in nearly fifty years, he feasted and drank and joked as though he were truly a soldier. But when the girl led him back to her bedroom he took off his helm and said, “My daughter Maryam, don’t you know me? Whatever has happened to you? Why did you not just tell me when you had sinned? I would not have been angry with you, for who is without sin, except for God alone? I would have done penance for you myself, yet instead you have left me all alone in unspeakable sadness and grief.”

As he spoke these words, she was like a motionless stone in his hands, too ashamed and afraid even to speak or to raise her eyes to his. But he spoke words of comfort and compassion to her all night, and in the morning she allowed him to lead her home, where she pleased God more by her sincere repentance than she ever had by her virginity, and where she was able to direct others more wisely because she was able to identify with sinners in their weakness rather than looking down on them from a place of purity.

From [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

[\*The Life of Saint Mary the Harlot\*](#) (c. 370) is a [hagiography](#) which can be found in Book 1 of [Rosweyde's \*Vitae Patrum\*](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

## **Authorship**

The work is an extract from the work *The Life of Abraham*. The earliest Syriac manuscript to contain it (fifth or sixth century) leaves the authorship anonymous.<sup>[2]</sup>

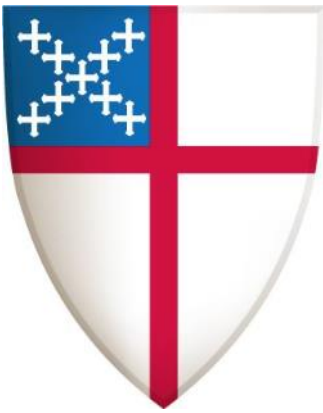
*The Life of Saint Mary the Harlot* is later attributed to [Ephraem, deacon of Edessa](#) and was likely written towards the end of his life,<sup>[3]</sup> though there have been claims against Ephrem's authorship.<sup>[4]</sup> Certain parallels have been noticed between Ephraem and Abraham, the uncle of St. Mary, notably that both were hermits who gave up their hermitage for work in the world only to return just before their deaths.<sup>[5]</sup> The character of Abraham may be a semi-autobiographical representation of Ephraem, or Ephraem was motivated by their personal similarities to record the story.

Ephraem writes that he is recounting the story in response to the unanimous request of his brethren, though this practice of claiming that one has been compelled to write is a common convention among ascetic authors as an expression of humility.<sup>[6]</sup>

The translator of the text from Syriac into Greek and [Latin](#) is unknown.

## **Plot synopsis**

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

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