



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION
And Stewardship

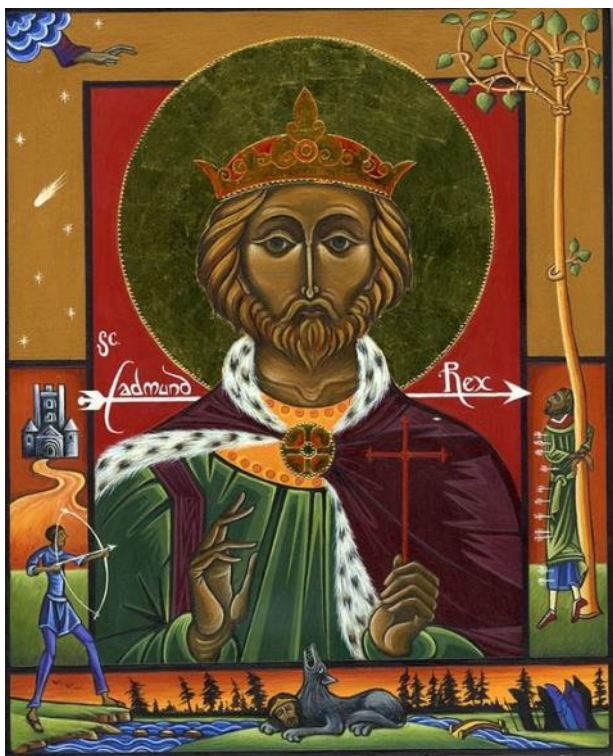
The firstfruits of hope

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 EDMUND THE MARTYR

Wednesday 20 Nov 2024 9:30 AM



From [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

Edmund the Martyr (also known as **St Edmund** or **Edmund of East Anglia**, died 20 November 869)^{[[note 1](#)]} was king of [East Anglia](#) from about 855 until his death.

Few historical facts about Edmund are known, as the kingdom of East Anglia was devastated by the [Vikings](#), who destroyed any contemporary evidence of his reign. Coins minted by Edmund indicate that he succeeded [Æthelweard of East Anglia](#), as they shared the same [moneyers](#). He is thought to have been of East Anglian origin, but 12th century writers produced fictitious accounts of his family, succession and his rule as king. Edmund's death was mentioned in the [Anglo-Saxon Chronicle](#), which relates that he was killed in 869 after the [Great Heathen Army](#) advanced into East Anglia. [Medieval](#) versions of Edmund's life and martyrdom differ as to whether he died in battle fighting the Great Heathen Army, or if

[Continued Pg 11](#)

The Psalmist declares,

*“The Almighty God, the Lord, speaks; he calls to the whole earth from east to west.
(Psalm 50:1)*

The people stand as they are able.

Presider: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People: The Holy One’s love is new every morning.

Invitatory Collect: Sioux Prayer

All: Great Spirit, Great Mystery, teach me how to trust my heart, my mind, my intuition, my inner knowing, my senses of my body, the blessings of my Spirit; teach me to trust these things, so that I may enter my Sacred Space and love beyond my fear and thus walk in balance with the passing of each glorious Sun. Amen.

Gloria: Venite

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice! Amen.**

Presider: God our Creator be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

The Collect:

All: Merciful God, who gave grace and fortitude to Edmund to die nobly for your Name: Bestow on us your servants the shield of faith, with which we can withstand the assaults of our ancient enemy; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons: *(Please be seated for the reading of the lessons)*

First Lesson: 2 Kings 11:1-8:

When Athaliah, Ahaziah's mother, saw that her son was dead, she set about to destroy all the royal family. But Jehosheba, King Joram's daughter, Ahaziah's sister, took Joash son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's children who were about to be killed; she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus she hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not killed; he remained with her six years, hidden in the house of the Lord, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

But in the seventh year Jehoiada summoned the captains of the Carites and of the guards and had them come to him in the house of the Lord. He made a covenant with them and put them under oath in the house of the Lord; then he showed them the king's son. He commanded them, "This is what you are to do: one-third of you, those who go off duty on the sabbath and guard the king's house (another third being at the gate Sur and a third at the gate behind the guards), shall guard the palace; and your two divisions that come on duty in force on the sabbath and guard the house of the Lord shall surround the king, each with weapons in hand; and whoever approaches the ranks is to be killed. Be with the king in his comings and goings."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm:

Psalm 7:1-10:

- 1 O Lord my God, I take refuge in you; *
save and deliver me from all who pursue me;
- 2 Lest like a lion they tear me in pieces *
and snatch me away with none to deliver me.
- 3 O Lord my God, if I have done these things: *
if there is any wickedness in my hands,
- 4 If I have repaid my friend with evil, *
or plundered him who without cause is my enemy;
- 5 Then let my enemy pursue and overtake me, *
trample my life into the ground,
and lay my honor in the dust.
- 6 Stand up, O Lord, in your wrath; *
rise up against the fury of my enemies.
- 7 Awake, O my God, decree justice; *
let the assembly of the peoples gather round you.

**8 Be seated on your lofty throne, O Most High; *
O Lord, judge the nations.**

**9 Give judgment for me according to my righteousness, O Lord, *
and according to my innocence, O Most High.**

**10 Let the malice of the wicked come to an end,
but establish the righteous; *
for you test the mind and heart, O righteous God.**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-20:

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson:

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew (10:16-22:)

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the twelve apostles, “See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

Profession of Faith: *(Please stand as you are able)*

We have faith in one God, one Source of all life, one Ground of the whole Earth, who created all things good.

And we have faith in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to bear God's likeness in working and caring for Creation, in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers, in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.

And we have faith in God's Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate lifestyle. So that the Earth is inherited in peace, her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly.

So be it. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader: Creator, we pray for all Creation and the Holy Assemblies of all faithful people.

People: **That we all may be one.**

Leader: Grant that every creature and all Creation may truly and humbly serve you and one another

People: **That your Glory may be known by all creatures.**

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, and all spiritual leaders

People: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments in all Creation.**

Leader: We pray for all who lead and hold responsibility in the nations and organizations of the human world.

People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader: Give us grace to do your joyful desire in all that we do and refrain from doing.

People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader: Have compassion on all your creatures who suffer from any grief or trouble.

People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader: Give to all departed creatures eternal rest.

People: **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of all Creation.

People: *(Add any other concerns you wish to lift up in prayer at this time)*

Presider: Almighty Creator and Eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.
(Short Silence may be kept.)

All: **Triune God, Creator of all, We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.**

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on us forgive us all our sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory

Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Doxology: (*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 - *New Zealand Book of Common Prayer*

Presider The Spirit of God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift your hearts to heaven

People **Where Christ in glory reigns.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise**

Presider

It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the first born from the dead, the pioneer of our salvation, who is with us always, one of us, yet from the heart of God.

For with your whole created universe, we praise you for your unfailing gift of life.

We thank you that you made us in your image and stay with us even when we turn from you to sin.

God's love is shown to us: in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

In that love, dear God, righteous and strong to save, you came among us in Jesus Christ, our crucified and living Lord.

You make all things new. In Christ's suffering and cross you reveal your glory and reconcile all peoples to yourself, the true and living God. Through Christ you gather us, new-born in your Spirit, a people after your own heart. We entrust ourselves to you and your mercy, for you alone judge all people, living and departed.

Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.

Therefore with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets, with all the redeemed, joyfully we praise you and say:

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy:
God of mercy, giver of life;
earth and sea and sky
and all that lives,
declare your presence and your glory.**

The Presider continues

All glory to you, Giver of life sufficient and full for all creation. Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ, the one perfect offering for the world, who in the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.”

After supper he took the cup; 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, to forgive sin. Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.”

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our redeemer, we meet you in your glory. We lift up the cup of salvation and call upon your name. Here and now, with this bread and wine, we celebrate your great acts of liberation, ever present and living in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

May Christ ascended in majesty be our new and living way, our access to you, Father, and source of all new life. In Christ we offer ourselves to do your will. Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit (+), feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ (+) with all who share your gifts of love.

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Creator God. AMEN.

Presider: Let us pray together the New Zealand form of the Lord's Prayer:

All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem (insert G#806)

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal lines. The first system's lyrics are "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry." The second system's lyrics are "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and simple melodic lines.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.**

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. We have gluten free bread and real wine. To intinct/dip your bread into the wine, please go to the left altar rail. To sip wine from the cup please come to the right altar rail. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitude Sharing

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

Presider Let us Pray

All: **O God, the author of peace and lover of concord; to know you is eternal life, to serve you is perfect freedom. Defend us your servants in every stress and danger, that we may trust in your defense and not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

Benediction/Blessing:

Presider: God the Creator, who loves us and gave this world to be our home,
God the Redeemer, who loves us and by dying and rising again leads the way
to freedom, God the Sanctifier, who spreads the divine love in our hearts, God
the three in one and one in three, bless you and keep 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!)

Please, join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall after worship.

Continued from front:

he met his death after being captured and then refusing the Viking leaders' demand that he renounce Christ.

A popular [cult](#) emerged after Edmund's death, and he was [canonised](#) by the Church. A series of coins commemorating him was minted from around the time East Anglia was absorbed by the kingdom of [Wessex](#) in 918, and in about 986, the French monk [Abbo](#) wrote of his life and martyrdom.

During the 10th century, Edmund's remains were [translated](#) from an unidentified location in East Anglia to Beodricesworth (modern [Bury St Edmunds](#)); they were temporarily moved to London for safekeeping in 1010. Edmund's cult flourished during the [Early](#) and [High](#) Middle Ages, and he and [Edward the Confessor](#) were regarded as the [patron saints](#) of [medieval England](#) until they were replaced by [Saint George](#) in the 15th century.^[2] Medieval manuscripts and works of art relating to Edmund include Abbo's *Passio Sancti Eadmundi*, [John Lydgate](#)'s 15th-century *Life*, the [Wilton Diptych](#), and a number of church [wall paintings](#).

King of the East Angles

The existence of Edmund is known from coins minted by his [moneymen](#), three of whom—Dudda, Eadmund, and Twicga—minted coins for Edmund's predecessor, [Æthelweard](#) which suggests that a smooth transition of power occurred.^[3] The number of coins issued in his name indicates that he reigned for a number of years, but the only contemporary documentary references to Edmund are the records of his death in [Asser](#)'s life of [Alfred the Great](#) and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. The twelfth-century *Annals of St Neots* states that Edmund succeeded on Christmas Day 855 aged fourteen and was crowned by Bishop [Hunberht](#) on Christmas Day 856 at a royal vill in [Burna](#) in Suffolk, but no source is known for these statements.^[4] The devastation in East Anglia that was caused by the [Vikings](#) destroyed all the [charters](#) that may have referred to Edmund.^[5]

Edmund cannot be placed within any ruling dynasty. The 10th century French monk [Abbo of Fleury](#) stated that Edmund was *ex antiquorum Saxonum nobili prosapia oriundus*, which according to Ridyard "was probably Abbo's rather verbose way of saying he was descended from the ancient nobility of his race".^[6]

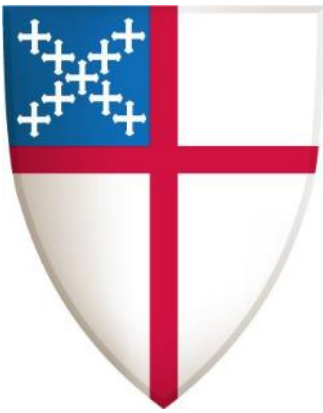
A variety of different coins were [minted](#) by Edmund's moneymen during his reign.^[7] The letters *AN*, standing for 'Anglia', appear on the coins of only Edmund and [Æthelstan](#), another 9th century king of the East Angles; the letters appear on Edmund's coins as part of the phrase + *EADMUND REX AN[GLORUM]* ("Edmund, King of the Angles").^[8] Edmund's later coins read + *EADMUND REX* ("Edmund, King").^{[8][9]} Otherwise, no chronology for his coins has been confirmed.^[10]

Death and burial

For decades after the [Viking raid on Lindisfarne in 793](#), their attacks on England were mainly raids on isolated [monastic communities](#). According to the *Annales Bertiniani* and the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, a larger-scale attack occurred in c. 844. By the end of the decade the Vikings had started to over-winter in England.^[11] In the autumn of 865 a force probably numbering over 5,000 combatants, described by the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* as "a great heathen army", came to East Anglia. Edmund made peace with them and gave them horses and other supplies, and they stayed there until the summer of 866, when they moved on to York.

^[12] The army attacked Mercia by the end of 867 and made peaceful

[Continued online](#)



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

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Hm: _____ Cell _____

Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

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