



The Season of **Epiphany**

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 VINCENT OF SARAGOSSA

Wednesday 22 Jan 2024 9:30 AM

From [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

Vincent of Saragossa (also known as **Vincent Martyr**, **Vincent of Huesca** or **Vincent the Deacon**), the Protomartyr of [Spain](#), was a deacon of the [Church of Saragossa](#). He is the [patron saint](#) of [Lisbon](#), [Algarve](#), and [Valencia](#). His feast day is 22 January in the [Catholic Church](#), [Anglican Communion](#), and the [Eastern Orthodox Church](#), with an additional commemoration on 11 November in the Eastern Orthodox Church. He was born at [Huesca](#) and martyred under the Emperor [Diocletian](#) around the year 304.

Biography

The earliest account of Vincent's martyrdom is in a *carmen* (lyric [poem](#)) written by the poet [Prudentius](#),^[2] who wrote a series of lyric poems, *Peristephanon* ("Crowns of Martyrdom"), on [Hispanic](#) and [Roman](#) martyrs.

He was born at [Huesca](#), near [Saragossa](#), in Spain sometime during the latter part of the 3rd century. It is believed his father was Eutricius (Euthicius), and his mother was Enola, a native of Osca (Huesca).^[3]

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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:

**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

Collect of the Day: *(All, in unison)*

**Almighty God, whose deacon Vincent, upheld by you, was neither
terrified by threats nor overcome by torments: Strengthen us to endure
all adversity with invincible and steadfast faith; through Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Word of God: *(please be seated)*

First Lesson: A reading from the book of Jeremiah (26:12-15):

Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “It is the Lord who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5

**1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.**

**2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.**

**3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.**

**4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.**

**5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O Lord, O God of truth.**

The Second Lesson: A reading from the book of Revelation (7:13-17):

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: Luke (12:4-12):

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

Nicene Creed *(Contemporary Version)* *All say together:*

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:

Leader: I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world;

People: For our Bishops Sean, and Jennifer, for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Leader: Pray for the Church. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for peace;

People: For goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Leader: Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit:

People: For the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Leader: Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who feel God's call in their hearts:

People: For all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Leader: Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

Leader: I ask your prayers for the departed

People: For those we love but see no more.

Leader: Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

Leader: In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer pray for *The Diocese of Liberia – The Church of the Province of West Africa.*

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *Church of St. Matthew, in Tucson.*

People: May God bless and guide them.

Leader: We pray for the first peoples of this land, especially the Apache and Tohono O'Odham peoples who call this area home.

People: For greater understanding and cooperation between us towards the common good for all.

Leader: Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

People: May we have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. Amen.

Confession of Sin:

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

All: Holy One, we encounter you in our lives and try to follow faithfully, but so often we get lost or turn away. We try to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we frequently fail. We take the wrong path and stray from the ways of your love. Forgive us, Lord, and guide us back to you. Amen.

Absolution:

Presider: God of Love, we return to you, and we accept your grace, we accept your pardon, we accept the gift of a new chance to follow in your pathways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

The Offertory:

Presider: Offer to God a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Offertory Hymn:

Doxology (Hymn #380 v. 3):

**All: ♪ 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

EOW 2

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.**

Presider continues:

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.

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.

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):

Presider and People: Sanctus

S#S124

**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, 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 in silence)*

Fraction: **ALL:**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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 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.)

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel and Gratitude

Post Communion Prayer:

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: God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be 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:

Vincent spent most of his life in the city of Saragossa, where he was educated and ordained to the diaconate by Bishop [Valerius of Saragossa](#), who commissioned Vincent to preach throughout the diocese.^[3] Because Valerius suffered from a speech impediment, Vincent acted as his spokesman.

When the Roman Emperor Diocletian began persecuting Christians in Spain, both were brought before the Roman governor, [Dacian](#), in [Valencia](#). Vincent and his bishop Valerius were confined to the prison of Valencia. Though he was finally offered release if he would consign Scripture [to the fire](#), Vincent refused. Speaking on behalf of his bishop, he informed the judge that they were ready to suffer everything for their faith, and that they could pay no heed either to threats or promises.^[4]

His outspoken manner so angered the governor that he had every sort of torture inflicted on Vincent. He was stretched on the rack and his flesh torn with iron hooks. Then his wounds were rubbed with salt and he was burned alive upon a red-hot gridiron. Finally, he was cast into prison and laid on a floor scattered with broken pottery, where he died. During his martyrdom he preserved such peace and tranquillity that it astonished his jailer, who repented from his sins and was converted. Vincent's dead body was thrown into the sea in a sack, but was later recovered by the Christians and his veneration immediately spread throughout the church.^[4] The aged bishop Valerius was [Continued online](#) exiled.

The story that Vincent was tortured on a gridiron is perhaps adapted from the [martyrdom](#) of another son of Huesca, [Lawrence](#)— Vincent, like many early martyrs in the early [hagiographic](#) literature, succeeded in converting his jailer.

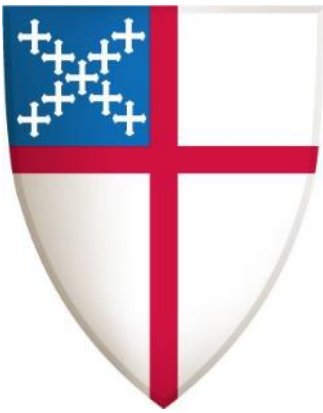
According to legend, after being martyred, [ravens](#) protected Vincent's body from being devoured by vultures, until his followers could recover the body. His body was taken to what is now known as [Cape St. Vincent](#) where a shrine was erected over his grave, guarded by flocks of ravens. In the time of [Muslim rule in the Iberian Peninsula](#), the Arab [geographer Al-Idrisi](#) noted this constant guard by ravens, for which the place was named by him كنيسة الغراب "Kanīṣah al-Ghurāb" (Church of the Raven). King [Afonso I of Portugal](#) (1139–1185) had Vincent's body exhumed in 1173 and brought it by ship to the [Lisbon Cathedral](#). This transfer of the relics is depicted on the [coat of arms of Lisbon](#).^[5]

Legacy and veneration

Three elaborated hagiographies, all based ultimately on a lost 5th-century *Passion*, circulated in the [Middle Ages](#). His "Acts" have been "rather freely colored by the imagination of their compiler".^[6]

Though Vincent's tomb in Valencia became the earliest center of his [cult](#), he was also honoured at his birthplace and his reputation spread from Saragossa. The city of [Oviedo](#) in [Asturias](#) grew about the church dedicated to Vincent. Beyond the [Pyrenees](#), he was venerated first in the vicinity of [Béziers](#), and at [Narbonne](#). [Castres](#) became an important stop on the international pilgrimage routes to [Santiago de Compostela](#) when the relics of Vincent were transferred to its new abbey-church dedicated to [Saint Benedict](#) from Saragossa in 863, under the patronage of Salomon, count of [Cerdanya](#).

Tiled mosaic in the [Cathedral of Braga](#) depicting the [translation](#) of St. Vincent's arm.



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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