

# *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 BERNARD MIZEKI

9:30 am Wednesday, 18 June 2025

[From Lessor Feasts & Fasts](#)

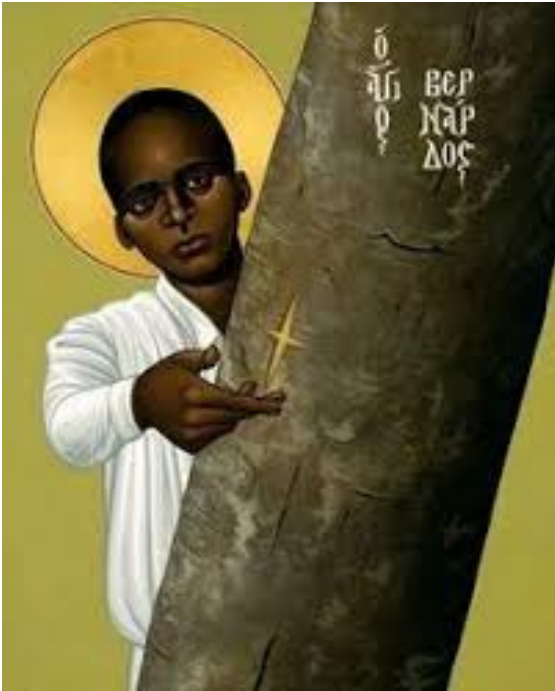
Bernard Mizeki was born around the year 1861 in Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique). In his early teens, he left his native land and came to Cape Town, South Africa, where he was befriended by Anglican missionaries. He was baptized on March 9, 1886, and trained as a catechist, becoming a much-beloved teacher.

In 1891, Bernard Mizeki volunteered to serve as catechist for the pioneer mission in Mashonaland (a region in what is now northern Zimbabwe) and was stationed at Nhowe. On June 18, 1896, during an uprising of the native people against the Europeans and their African friends, Bernard was marked out especially. Though warned to flee, he would not desert his converts at the mission station. He was stabbed to death, but his body was never found, and the exact site of his burial is unknown.

A shrine near Bernard's place of martyrdom attracts many pilgrims today, and the Anglican Churches of Central and Southern Africa honor

him as their primary native martyr and witness.

[Continued Pg 11](#)



## **Opening Acclamation:**

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

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

**Presider** Let us pray:

**All:** God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**GLORIA — #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 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:** Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your holy martyr Bernard Mizeki: Grant unto us your humble servants a like faith and power of love, that we, who rejoice in his triumph, may profit by his example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD:** *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

### **First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Nehemiah (6:6-11):**

In the letter was written, "It is reported among the nations—and Geshem also says it—that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall; and according to this report you wish to become their king. You have also set up prophets to proclaim in Jerusalem concerning you, 'There is a king in Judah!' And now it will be reported to the king according to these words. So come, therefore, and let us confer together." Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done; you are inventing them out of your own mind" —for they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

One day when I went into the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his house, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you; indeed, tonight they are coming to kill you." But I said, "Should a man like me run away? Would a man like me go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in!"

Reader The Word of the Lord    **People**                      **Thanks be to God**

### **The PSALM:**

**Psalm 70                      (read in unison)**

- 1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; \*  
O Lord, make haste to help me.**
- 2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed  
and altogether dismayed; \*  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune  
draw back and be disgraced.**
- 3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, \*  
because they are ashamed.**
- 4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; \*  
let those who love your salvation say for ever,  
"Great is the Lord!"**
- 5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; \*  
come to me speedily, O God.**
- 6 You are my helper and my deliverer; \*  
O Lord, do not tarry.**

## **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."

Reader The Word of the Lord    **People**        **Thanks be to God**

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

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke (12:1–12):**

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

When the crowd gathered by the thousands, so that they trampled on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees, that is, their hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops.

"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

## Homily

**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: Holy God, by your spirit you gave birth to your church: may our many members be the one Body of Christ in this World,

**People: and then lead us by your Holy Spirit in the ways of truth and love.**

Leader: Holy God, you gave your disciples the ability to speak in languages of the people: may we also speak about your deeds of power and grace throughout the world,

**People: that all may know of your loving-kindness and saving mercy.**

Leader: Holy God, the earth is full of your creatures: may all who look to you be given their food in due season.

**People: Open your hand in the desolate places and fill the hungry with good things.**

Leader: Holy God, you poured out your Holy Spirit in your holy city Jerusalem: pour out your Spirit in our own towns and cities.

**People: Raise up modern day prophets and visionaries to call us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.**

Leader: Holy God, you give the gift of healing by your Spirit: bring healing and wholeness to all those on our hearts and minds this day,

**People: In your might and compassion, renew the face of the Earth. Bring renewal to those in need.**

Leader: Holy God, you adopt us as your children, joint heirs with your Christ. In your unending loving-kindness we lift up to you:

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: *The Diocese of Mytikyina – The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma).*

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer: *St. John the Baptist, in Glendale.*

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: Come Holy Spirit, Come.**

## 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 Christ our Lord, 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.*

## The Offertory

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 (Hymn #380 v. 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 our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

**You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and surrounded us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.**

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say/sing:

Sanctus -

#S-128

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
in the highest.**

*Presider continues:*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

**But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love.**

Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.

**Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.**

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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, 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit (+) may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit (+) and live as Christ’s Body in the world.

**Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.**

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Presider: 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 #808 Refrain only Let us be Bread*

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared,  
life for the world. Let us be wine, love free - ly poured.  
Let us be one in the Lord.

**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 Supper 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, Travel, 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:** May the Spirit of Truth lead you into all truth, giving you grace to confess Jesus' ways, truth, and life and to proclaim the wonderful works of God; and may the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the 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:](#)

[Bernard Mizeki](#) (sometimes spelt Bernard Mzeki; c. 1861 – 18 June 1896) was an African Christian missionary and martyr. Born in Mozambique, he moved to Cape Town, attended an Anglican school, and became a Christian.

### **Early life**

[More From Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

He was born Mamiyeri Mitseka Gwambe in Inhambane, Portuguese East Africa (now Mozambique) and raised in a traditional fashion. As a boy, he did some work in a store run by a Portuguese trader, and learned some Portuguese. Between the ages of ten and fifteen, he moved with a cousin to Cape Town, Cape Colony (now South Africa), where he took a new name, "Barns", as well as various jobs as a labourer and house servant.[1] When he was a little older, he left his home and continued to work as a labourer, living in the slums of Cape Town, but (perceiving the disastrous effects of drunkenness on many workers in the slums) firmly refusing to drink alcohol, and remaining largely uncorrupted by his surroundings. After his day's work, he attended night classes at an Anglican school. Under the influence of his teachers, from the Society of St John the Evangelist (SSJE, an Anglican religious order for men, popularly called the Cowley Fathers), he became a Christian and was baptized on 9 March 1886. Besides the fundamentals of European schooling, he mastered English, French, High Dutch, and at least eight local African languages. In time he would be an invaluable assistant when the Anglican church began translating sacred texts into African languages.[2]

### **Missionary work**

Through the work of the Cowley Fathers' mission, and particularly the night school run by German missionary Baroness Paula Dorothea von Blomberg, he became a Christian. He and five others were some of the first converts, baptized in St Philip's Mission, Sir Lowry Road, on 7 March 1886. Shortly thereafter, Bernard (then about 25 years old) started work at St Columba's Hostel, which was run by the missionaries for African men. Within a few months he was sent to Zonnebloem College to train as a catechist. In January 1891, Bernard accompanied the new missionary bishop of Mashonaland, George Wyndham Knight-Bruce, as a lay catechist and medical worker among the Shona people in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).[3]

He was sent to work in the Marandellas (Marondera) district among the Nhowe people, and settled in the kraal of Mungati Mangwende. Bernard built his home there, and gained a reputation as a teacher. He took children who wanted to learn into his home to teach them the gospel, and traveled to the bishop's residence in Umtali to help with translations.[4]

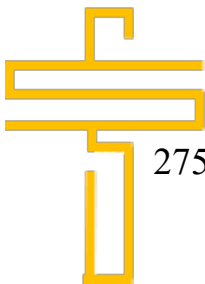
In March 1896, Mizeki married Mutwa (later "Lily"), an orphaned granddaughter of the Mangwende and a Christian convert. African Anglican priest Rev. Hezekiah Mtobi, recently arrived from Grahamstown, South Africa led the ceremony.[5] Mizeki was thus admitted into the Mangwende's kinship network, which some resented.

With the Mangwende's permission, Mizeki moved his growing community (several families, as well as young boys he was entrusted to teach), about two miles. They resettled across the river in a fertile area with a spring, but also near a sacred grove which was believed to be inhabited by spirits of the tribe's ancestral lions. Rather than make offerings to such spirits, Mizeki made the sign of the cross in the air, and carved crosses on some of the trees, and later felled some trees while preparing a field to plant wheat.[6]

### **Martyrdom**

[Continued online](#)

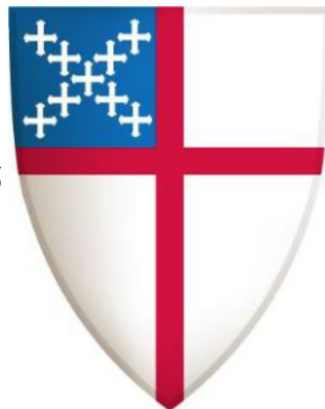
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### Welcome Visitor!!!

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.



<input type="checkbox"/> Info Update	Giving Envelopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail News Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)			
Hm: _____		Cell _____	
Email: _____		Anv. Date _____	
		BrthDate _____	
Adrs: _____			
City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____			