



**ST CYPRIAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
- ROXBURY -**

**Celebration of the
Feast Day of our Patron
Saint Cyprian of Carthage**

September 8, 2024 - 10:00 am

The Rev. Erma Ambrose, Celebrant and Preacher

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 18

HOLY EUCHARIST

RITE 11

Organist and Choir Director– Brian Edwards

Guest organist – Aymon Parris

MC -- Charles Knight

Readers: Margaret Lowell, Joyce Stanton and Judith Dilday

Eucharistic Minister: Edward Rewolinski

Organ Selections.....Aymon Parris

Prelude.....*Prelude in B Flat.....by C Loret.....*Organist

Processional Hymn.....481 WC

Introit Hymn”For the beauty of the earth’.....Choir

The Collect For Purity355 BCP

The Gloria356 BCP

The Collect for Pentecost XV1

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Collect for Feast of Cyprian

Almighty God, who gave to your servant Cyprian boldness to confess the name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Jeremiah 14:13-18

Then I said: “Ah, Lord God! Here are the prophets saying to them, ‘You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you true peace in this place.’” And the Lord said to me: The prophets are prophesying lies in my name; I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to

them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name though I did not send them, and who say, "Sword and famine shall not come on this land": By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed. And the people to whom they prophesy shall be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and sword. There shall be no one to bury them—themselves, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. For I will pour out their wickedness upon them.

You shall say to them this word:

Let my eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease, for the virgin daughter—my people—is struck down with a crushing blow, with a very grievous wound.

If I go out into the field, look—those killed by the sword!

And if I enter the city, look—those sick with famine!

For both prophet and priest ply their trade throughout the land, and have no knowledge.

The Psalm

Psalm 116:10–17

10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah

The Second Reading

James 4:11–17

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters. Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another, speaks evil against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. So who, then, are you to judge your neighbor? Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin.

Sequence Hymn:

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

1 Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,
keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
nothing can thy power withstand,
none can pluck me from thy hand.

2 Loving Saviour, thou didst give
thine own life that we might live,
and the hands outstretched to bless
bear the cruel nails' impress.

3 Loving Shepherd, ever near,
teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
suffer not my steps to stray
from the straight and narrow way.

4 Where thou leadest I would go,
walking in thy steps below,
till before my Father's throne
I shall know as I am known.

The Gospel

John 10:11–16

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away-- and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

Musical Selection.....	Gospel Choir
Sermon.....	Rev. Erma Ambrose
The Creed	327 BCP

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayers of The People Form 1V	388 BCP
The Confession of Sin	360 BCP

The Peace

As you remain in the pews and wave a sign of peace, the following is sung:

“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me
 Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be
 With God as our father, children all are we
 Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
 Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now
 With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow.
 To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally
 Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me”.

Announcements

Blessings: Persons celebrating Birthdays. Anniversaries, Traveling, or anyone just in need of a prayer are invited to come to the altar for a blessing.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Anthem.....”Praise the Lord Jerusalem.....by J.H Mounder.....	Choir
Offertory Hymn.....	47 LEVAS

At the presentation of the offering, the following is sung

All things are thine, no gifts have we,
 Lord of all gifts, to offer thee;
 And hence with grateful hearts today
 Thine own before thy feet we lay

The Great Thanksgiving.....	361 BCP
Sanctus Benedictus.....	362 BCP
The Lord’s Prayer.....	364 BCP
The Fraction and Invitation.....	364 BCP

Communion Hymn.....233 WC
376 WC

Post Communion Prayer 365 BCP

THE BLESSING

Recessional Hymn276 WC

DISMISSAL

Postlude.....*“Improvisation on We Shall Overcome”*.....arr by Carol Haywood

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please remember the sick and shut-in members in your prayers: Gloria Burke, Lesia Clarke, Angeline Elmore, Zelda Godfrey, Albertha Herbert, Ernest Herbert, Linda Ifill, Traci King, Roslyn Morris, Mae Nelson, Marcel Pilgrim, Nathalie Sandiford, Marva Toppin, Kevin Vaughn, Leroy Wason, Amelia Winston, Judith Richards and Michael O’Herron.

- We are very pleased to welcome The Rev. Erma Ambrose, rector of St. Paul’s Anglican Church in Barbados as our celebrant and preacher.
- Special thanks to Aymon Parris also from Barbados who is here participating in the celebration of our Feast Day. Thank you as well to his mom Wendy for giving permission for her 14 year old son to travel out of the country to share his extraordinary talent with us.
- Bible study is held on Fridays at 6:30 pm in the library
- Rehearsals for the chancel and gospel choirs are held on alternate Sundays following the service. Please note there will be no rehearsal today.
- All are invited to join us for a reception in the parish hall following the service.

PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNION:

Receiving communion in your hand remains the method of distribution.

Cyprian -Bishop of Carthage

Cyprian wrote an extensive collection of letters during a difficult and intense time of persecution of the early church. Therefore, his letters contain invaluable insight into the structure of the church during the mid-3rd century.

Cyprian's Conversion

The details of Cyprian's early life remain obscure. He was probably born around 200 A.D. to wealthy parents. He received a high education for the profession of a rhetorician. Before his conversion, he was a leading member of a legal fraternity in Carthage.

Cyprian became close friends with a presbyter named Cæcilius. This friend led Cyprian to his conversion and baptism around the year 246 A.D. At his baptism he took the name Cæcilius, as part of his own name in honor of his friend. Afterwards he devoted his energy to the study and practice of Christianity.

The church in Carthage ordained Cyprian as bishop rapidly following his conversion. He was resistant to take the position, and the elder presbyters objected greatly. However, because of overwhelming public insistence he accepted the office of Bishop of Carthage (A.D. 248). He held this position until his martyrdom (A.D. 258).

Persecution Under Decian

Around the year 250 A.D. the entire church was put to an undesired test. The Emperor Decian issued an edict that sacrifices be made throughout the empire, to strengthen the state and religion of Rome.

The persecution of Christians was especially severe in Carthage. Cyprian decided to go into hiding to avoid execution. Many Christians fell during the persecution. They got the name Lapsi (the fallen). The Lapsi got signed statements saying they had sacrificed to the Roman gods. In some cases, the Christians actually did sacrifice. Cyprian found these compromises cowardly and insisted on repentance before allowing the Lapsi re-admittance to the church. However, since Cyprian was absent other elders began re-admitting Christians to communion without public repentance.

A schism broke out in Carthage. The laxest Christians and elders who defended them were trying to block measures taken by Cyprian in his absence. After fourteen months Cyprian returned to Carthage. He convoked a council of North African bishops at Carthage to consider the treatment of the lapsed. Cyprian took a middle course between the followers of Novatus of Carthage who were in favor of welcoming back all with little or no penance, and Novatian of Rome

who would not allow any of those who had lapsed to be reconciled. The council in the main sided with Cyprian.

Cyprian's death under Valerian

At the end of 256 another persecution broke out under Emperor Valerian. Cyprian prepared his people for the persecution through his writing *De exhortatione martyrii*. Cyprian set an example of faithfulness to God before the Roman proconsul. He refused to sacrifice to the pagan deities and immovably professed Christ. As a result the Romans banished him to the town of Korba, ancient Curubis. From there he wrote to encourage his flock. He lived as a prisoner in his own villa.

On September 14, 258 A.D. Galerius Maximus interrogated Cyprian publicly. The Romans took Cyprian to the place of execution directly after examination. A vast multitude followed Cyprian on his last journey. He removed his garments without assistance, knelt down, and prayed. After he blindfolded himself, he was beheaded by the sword. Christians buried his body near the place of execution.

-Information based on writings of Philip Schaff



St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Noble Scheepers, Interim priest

A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion.

Welcome to St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church. Our congregation has been part of the greater Boston area for over one hundred years. Having deep roots in the Caribbean immigrant community, the parish continues to welcome people from all that region and beyond.

We thank you for worshipping with us. Please join us next time you are visiting the Boston area and if you live nearby, we would love to have you worship with us on Sundays at 10:30 AM

Our vestry consists of :

Arthur Thorne – Senior warden
Cecil Pryce – Junior warden
Josephine Mitchell - Treasurer
Harriet Carmichael - Clerk
Dario Boyce
Henry Cadogan
Rosalyn Coppin-Donovan

Eldra Cummins
Diane Davis
Zelda Godfrey
Charles Knight
Edward Rewolinski
Joyce Stanton