

ZENAIDA, PHILONELLA, AND HERMIONE



UNMERCENARY PHYSICIANS, c. 100, c. 117

A Celebration of Word and Communion

Live Stream 10:00 am

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
1 Saint Mary's Church Road
Abingdon, MD 21009

The Rev Julian R Eibin, Interim Rector

Zenaida (Zenaida of Tarsus) and Philonella (d. circa 100) were traditionally the first Christian physicians after Luke the Evangelist, and the first "unmercenaries" (physicians who would not accept fees from their patients). They are particularly venerated in Eastern Christianity.

Zenaida and Philonella were sisters, born into a well-educated Jewish family and said to be cousins of Paul the Apostle. On entering the philosophical academy at Tarsus, they devoted themselves to the study of medicine, and when they completed their studies moved to the mountains around Pelion near Demetriada in Thessaly. This was a region renowned for its healing springs and shrines to Asclepius. The physicians who practiced there catered to the wealthy, charging exorbitant amounts for their services, and augmented their incomes with the sale of magical amulets and charms.

The sisters set themselves in opposition to the prevailing custom. On locating a cave with a mineral spring, they set up a chapel and cells for themselves, and opened a clinic where they treated all who came to them regardless of their ability to pay.

Philonella devoted herself to experimental medicine, using methods approaching that of modern scientific methods, and worked hard to separate effective medicine from superstition. Zenaida was particularly interested in pediatrics. Both sisters devoted their lives to prayer when they were not working in their clinic.

Traditions vary about their deaths. According to one account, the two were stoned to death by pagans on the same night. According to another, both met peaceful ends, with Philonella surviving her sister by some years, deepening her spiritual devotion and becoming known as a wonderworker.

Hermione was born in Caesarea of Palestine early in the first century, a daughter of Saint Philip the Deacon. Inspired by a true understanding of the gospel, she studied the philosophy of medicine in her native city.

She bought a house and founded a medical clinic, devoted to the treatment of the poor and the homeless. Joined by her sister Eukhidia, she added rooms for these homeless ones and for poor travelers who were ill. Thus was established the first of those hospital-hostels or xenodukia, which would become so much a part of the Orthodox Christian tradition. While ministering to the physical illnesses of those who came to her, she also nourished them with the gospel.

During the reign of Emperors Trajan and Hadrian, she was arrested. In spite of her old age she was subjected to tortures to force her to renounce her faith.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE PROCLAMATION OF EASTER

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

CHRIST OUR PASSOVER

Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
 therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
 death no longer has dominion over him.
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *
 the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Let us pray... Merciful God, whose most dear Son came to heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons, and preach the gospel to the poor; Teach us by the example of your servants, Zenaida, Philonella, and Hermione to freely give even as we have freely received; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Sirach 38:1-15

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

Honour physicians for their services,
 for the Lord created them;
 for their gift of healing comes from the Most High,
 and they are rewarded by the king.
 The skill of physicians makes them distinguished,
 and in the presence of the great they are admired.
 The Lord created medicines out of the earth,
 and the sensible will not despise them.
 Was not water made sweet with a tree
 in order that its power might be known?

And he gave skill to human beings
 that he might be glorified in his marvellous works.
 By them the physician heals and takes away pain;
 the pharmacist makes a mixture from them.
 God's works will never be finished;
 and from him health spreads over all the earth.

My child, when you are ill, do not delay,
 but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you.
 Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly,
 and cleanse your heart from all sin.
 Offer a sweet-smelling sacrifice, and a memorial portion of choice flour,
 and pour oil on your offering, as much as you can afford.
 Then give the physician his place, for the Lord created him;
 do not let him leave you, for you need him.
 There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians,
 for they too pray to the Lord
 that he will grant them success in diagnosis
 and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.
 He who sins against his Maker
 will be defiant towards the physician.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia

THE RESPONSE (*said in unison, pausing at the asterisk and end of each verse*)

Psalms 147

1 Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

4 He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

8 He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

10 He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.

11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.

15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL (*Please stand, as you are able*)

Mark 1:29-34

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON (*Please be seated*)

The Rev'd Julian Eibin

THE PRAYERS

*You are invited to **remain standing** as able for the prayers*

On this day that the Lord has made, let us pray for the people he has redeemed.

That we may live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross:

Hear us, good Lord

That all people may receive the good news of his victory:

Hear us, good Lord

That those born to new life in the waters of baptism may know the power of his resurrection:

Hear us, good Lord

That those who suffer pain and anguish may find healing and peace in the wounds of Christ:

Hear us, good Lord

That in the undying love of Christ we may be united with all who have died in the faith of Christ:

Hear us, good Lord

Let us commend the world, in which Christ rose from the dead, to the mercy and protection of God.

Silence is kept

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

The early Christians stood for prayer as a sign of their new life in the Risen Lord. We are encouraged to do likewise

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

**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.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and God of our Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; of Sarah, Ruth and Mary God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now let us pray as our Savior Christ has taught us,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. AMEN.**

THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Alleluia. Christ Our Passover is sacrificed for us
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

THE INVITATION TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

One in Christ, the following prayer to be said by all:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present
in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though you have already come,
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you;
never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

The Gifts of God for the Holy People of God. Come to the Feast of the Lamb



We pause for silent prayer

Let us pray: **Almighty and everliving God,**
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead
 open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
 give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
 empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The congregation is dismissed with these words

With the risen life of Christ within us, let us go forth in the peace of Christ. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **OUR ANNUAL MEETING** will be held on Sunday April 18 in person and Zoom 9:00-9:45
- **Nominees for Vestry**
 - Amy Rose
 - Amy Parker
 - Marshall Garrett
- **WOMEN'S GROUP: Next meeting: Today.** There will be a Kitchen Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 24 at 9 am (til noon). Join us for some fellowship as we tidy up the kitchen in the hopes that we will soon be able to use it again! Questions? Email women@stmarysharford.org

A PRAYER FOR OUR RECTOR SEARCH

O God, who has blessed and sustained us through the years; we ask that you continue to lead us, stretch us, and direct us, in our search for a new rector. Raise for us, we pray, a priest and pastor who will boldly proclaim your Gospel, faithfully administer your sacraments, and serve your people with love and compassion, that we may continue to grow in the likeness of Christ and be a beacon of love and hope, a gathering place and sanctuary to our community and the world. To the glory of your Holy Name. Amen.