

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two



St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Flint,
MI
The Mary's Chapel

May 6, 2026

The Feast of St. George of Lydda

The Word of God

Where cross the crowded ways of life

H 609

Opening acclamation

p 355

Gloria in excelsis Deo:

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Collect of the Day:

Almighty God, you commissioned your holy martyr George to bear before the rulers of this world the banner of the cross: Strengthen us in our battles against the great serpent of sin and evil, that we too may attain the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1st Reading: **Joshua 1:7-9**

Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded

you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Psalm 3 *Domine, quid multiplicati*

- 1 LORD, how many adversaries I have! *
 how many there are who rise up against me!
- 2 How many there are who say of me, *
 "There is no help for him in his God."
- 3 But you, O LORD, are a shield about me; *
 you are my glory, the one who lifts up my head.
- 4 I call aloud upon the LORD, *
 and he answers me from his holy hill;
- 5 I lie down and go to sleep; *
 I wake again, because the LORD sustains me.
- 6 I do not fear the multitudes of people *
 who set themselves against me all around.
- 7 Rise up, O LORD; set me free, O my God; *
 surely, you will strike all my enemies across the face,
 you will break the teeth of the wicked.

8 Deliverance belongs to the LORD. *

Your blessing be upon your people!

Gospel: **John 15:18-21**

Jesus said, "If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'Servants are not greater than their master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me."

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St. George of Lydda *Martyr*

George is the patron saint of England by declaration of King Edward II in 1347. He is remembered as a martyr, having given his life in witness to the gospel during the persecution of the church in the early fourth century. Very few details of his life have survived, and his story is replete with legend. By the middle of the fifth century, he was commemorated in local calendars and historical records of the period.

George was a soldier by vocation, serving as an officer in the Roman army. It is said that he “gave his goods to the poor, and openly confessed Christianity before the court.”

George’s initial notoriety may well have resulted from his faithfulness and witness to Christ during the Diocletian

persecutions, 303–304, a particularly destructive period through which the church suffered.

Much of the legend of George dates back only to the eighth century, and more of it developed in the centuries that followed. The infamous story of



George slaying the dragon, probably developed from Greek mythology, is not associated with him until the twelfth century. The inclusion of George's story in the thirteenth century manuscript, *The Golden Legend*, accounts for his growing popularity in the Middle Ages.

In the twelfth century George was recognized as the patron saint of soldiers and he was called upon in support of those who would fight in the Crusades. The shield under which his soldier's fought became a symbol of national pride for the English and in time was adapted into the national flag. Interestingly, the "St. George's Shield"—white shield emblazoned with a red cross—is the basis of the Episcopal Church flag and seal.