



Sunday. Every Day.

Christ Church Episcopal

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

The Martyrs of Uganda

June 3, 1886

· Wednesday, June 3, 2026 · · Chapel · 5:30 p.m. ·

Prelude

Opening Hymn

Opening Sentences Page 355, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Kyrie Page 356, *The Book of Common Prayer*

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, by whose providence the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church: Grant that we who remember before you the blessed martyrs of Uganda, may, like them, be steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ, to whom they gave obedience even to death, and by their sacrifice brought forth a plentiful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Gospel

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 24:9-14
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said to his disciples, "They will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

Reflection

You may kneel or sit.

The Prayers of the People Form III, Page 387, *The Book of Common Prayer*

The Confession Page 360, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Candle Lighting

*We continue our prayers through the lighting of votive candles as a symbol of our love and concern for others.
You are welcome to light a single candle as a symbol of your prayers.*

Please stand.

The Peace Page 360, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Please be seated.

Announcements

*To make an offering online visit
ccpvb.org/give or scan this code.
Thank you for your support.*

SCAN HERE



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Please stand.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer Page 364, *The Book of Common Prayer*

The Breaking of the Bread Page 364, *The Book of Common Prayer*

Please be seated.

Distribution of Communion

Please join us at God's table.

All people, including children, are invited to receive Communion. Gluten-free wafers are also available. If you would prefer not to take Communion but would like a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.

Communion Music

You may kneel or sit.

Postcommunion Prayer Page 365, *The Book of Common Prayer*

The Blessing

Please stand.

Final Hymn

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

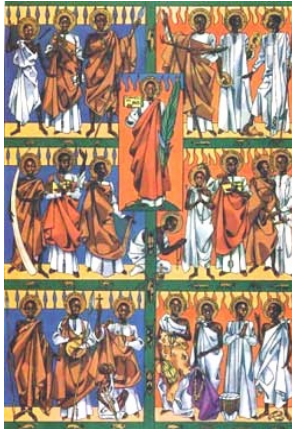
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

THE MARTYRS OF UGANDA

(3 JUNE 1886)

On 3 June 1886, thirty-two young men, pages of the court of King Mwanga of Buganda, were burned to death at Namugongo for their refusal to renounce Christianity. In the following months many other Christians throughout the country died by spear or fire for their faith.

These martyrdoms totally changed the dynamic of Christian growth in Uganda. Introduced by a handful of Anglican and Roman missionaries after 1877, the Christian faith had been preached only to the immediate members



of the court, by order of King Mutesa. His successor, Mwanga, became increasingly angry as he realized that the first converts put loyalty to Christ above the traditional loyalty to the king. Martyrdoms began in 1885. Mwanga first forbade anyone to go near a Christian mission on pain of death, but finding himself unable to cool the ardor of the converts, resolved to wipe out Christianity.

The Namugongo martyrdoms produced a result entirely opposite to Mwanga's intentions. The example of these martyrs, who walked to their deaths singing hymns and praying for their enemies, so inspired many of the bystanders that they began to seek instruction from the remaining Christians. Within a few years the original handful of converts had multiplied many times and spread far beyond the court. The martyrs had left the indelible impression that Christianity was truly African, not simply a white man's religion.

Most of the missionary work was carried out by Africans rather than by white missionaries, and Christianity spread steadily. Uganda now has the largest percentage of professed Christians of any nation in Africa.

Several years ago I heard an African clergyman, born of pagan parents, tell of his conversion. He said: One afternoon I was bicycling along a road and met a young man about my own age bicycling in the opposite direction. He promptly turned about and began to ride beside me and to talk. He spoke with great enthusiasm about Jesus, whom I had never heard of before, and how He had destroyed the power of death and evil by dying and rising again, and how He was God become man to reconcile man with God. I heard what my companion had to say, and before we parted I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Now, the young man who preached the Good News of Jesus Christ to me that afternoon had himself heard of Jesus for the first time that morning. Renewed persecution of Christians in the 1970's by the military dictatorship of Idi Amin proved the vitality of the example of the Namugongo martyrs. Among the thousands of new martyrs, both Anglican and Roman, was [Janani Luwum](#), Archbishop of the (Anglican) Church of Uganda.
by James Kiefer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUST JULY: A Summer Book Study

Wednesdays in July | 10:00-11:00 AM | F106
Father Eric will host a midsummer book study on Wednesdays in July on *With: Reimagining the Way You Relate to God* written by Skye Jethani. *With* explores the narrative of the Bible to show that we were created to be with God, and that restoring this connection is his mission. Visit ccpvb.org for more info.

For a complete list of events, ministry activities, and more please visit our website.

