

**Also known as**

- Ephrem of Edessa
- Ephrem the Syrian
- Ephraem...
- Ephraim...
- Ephraem Syrus
- Deacon of Edessa
- Harp of the Holy Spirit
- Jefrem Sirin
- Sun of the Syrians

**Memorial**

- 9 June
- 28 January (Eastern Orthodox; Eastern Catholic)
- 8 June (Scottish Episcopal)
- 10 June (Wales; Episcopal Church in the USA)
- 18 June (Maronite Church)
- formerly 1 February
- 7th Saturday before Easter (Syriac Orthodox Church)

**Profile**

• May have been the son of a pagan priest. Brought to the faith by Saint James of Nisibis, and baptized at age 18. Helped to evangelize Nisibis, Mesopotamia. May have attended the Council of Nicaea in 325. Deacon. Preacher. Had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 363 Nisibis was ceded to Persia; a great persecution of Christians began, and Ephrem led an exodus of the faithful to Edessa. Founded a theological school in Edessa. Wrote homilies, hymns and poetry. Helped introduce the use of hymns in public worship. Fought Gnosticism and Arianism by his writings, including poems and hymns. Proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1920.

**Born**

- c.306 at Nisibis, Mesopotamia (in modern Syria)

**Died**

- 9 June 373 at Edessa (in modern Iraq) of natural causes

- tomb in Armenian monastery, Der Serkis, west of Edessa

**Canonized**

- Pre-Congregation