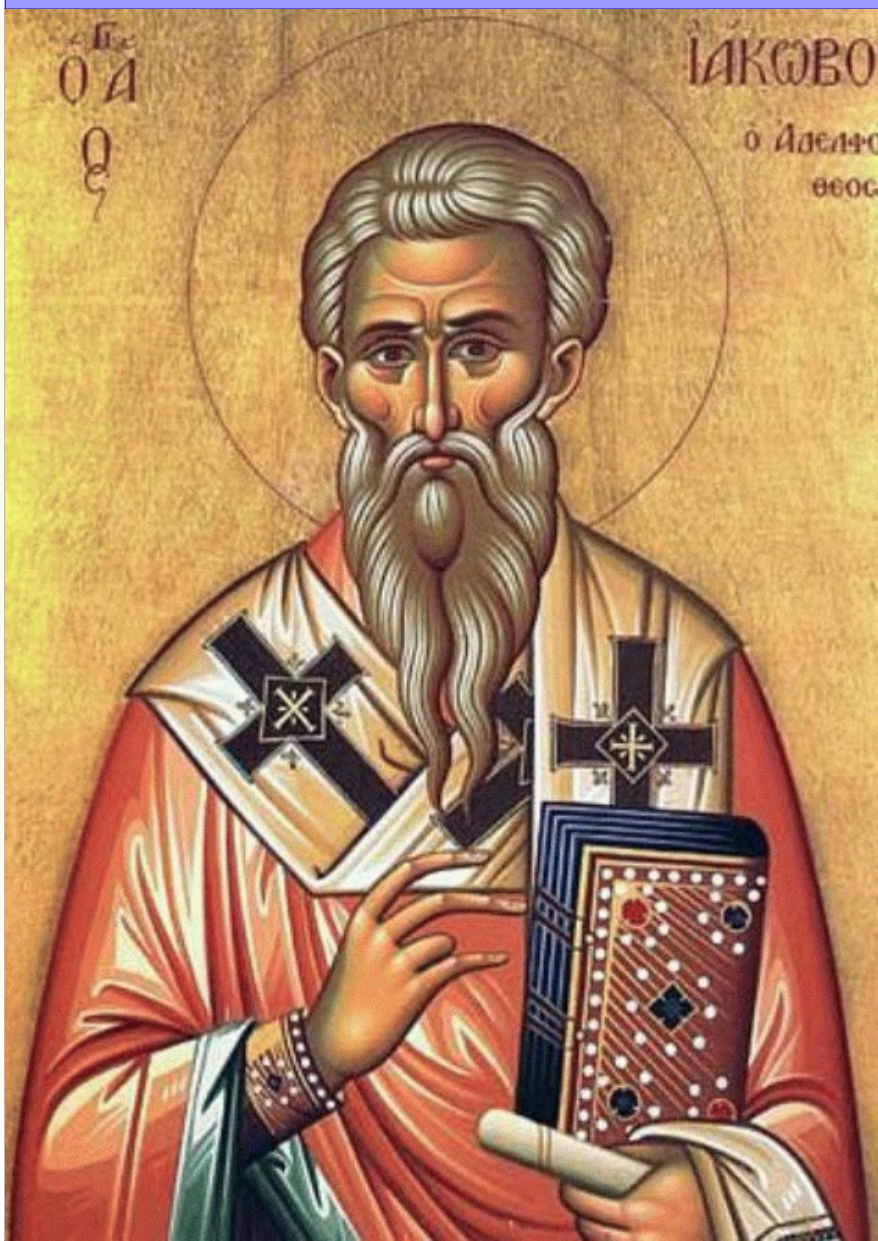




VESPERS **on the Memorial of** **James of Jerusalem**

2025 October 23

As members of a parish in the Diocese of New Westminster, we acknowledge that we are gathered from a variety of locations within the traditional and unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish people, including but not limited to, the halq'-emylém speaking Kwantlen, Kwikwetlem, Musqueam, Tseil-watuth and Tsawwassen nations.

The Preparation

Officiant

Today we remember James, who was a brother of Jesus, a witness to his resurrection, and a leader of the Church in Jerusalem. He is not mentioned in any of the gospels, which suggests that he did not follow his brother or take part in his journey to the cross. But when Saint Paul wrote his First Letter to the Corinthians, he made this note: after the resurrection Jesus “appeared to [Peter], then to the Twelve; then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time; *then he appeared to James*, then to all the apostles.” The risen Lord chose his own brother to be one of the original witnesses to his resurrection; and this fact, together with his kinship to Jesus, gave James special authority among the other disciples. He came to be recognized as the equal of Peter and John in the leadership of the Church.

James and many other disciples of his brother still considered themselves Jews, still worshipped in the Temple, and still tried to obey the law of Moses. As a result they were suspicious of Saint Paul and his mission to the gentiles. They believed that the gospel

The Preparation (Cont'd)

was only for Jews, and that pagans first had to be circumcised according to Jewish law before they could be baptized and considered disciples of Christ. Paul taught just the opposite — that pagans had free access to Christ through faith and baptism. The controversy threatened to divide the whole Church, so Paul went up to Jerusalem and argued his case with James and the other “pillars” of the Jerusalem church. In the end James accepted Paul’s arguments and acknowledged that his mission to the non-Jewish nations was indeed the work of God. As Paul wrote: “James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.” Thus, James is honoured for his reconciling wisdom, as one who overcame his own prejudices in order to preserve the unity of the fledgling Church.

From “*For All the Saints*”
Anglican Church of Canada

The Preparation

Officiant

O God, make speed to save us,
O Lord, make haste to help us.

From the rising of the Sun to its setting
your glory is proclaimed in all the world.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.
Amen.

Act of Praise

O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ
(Common Praise 14)

Officiant or Cantor

O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the
Father's glory shone. Immortal, holy, blest is he,
and blest are you, his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps
are lit to pierce the night. Praise Farther, Son, and
Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God,
life giving Lord; wherefore you are through
all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

The Psalm

Psalm 1: 1 - 6

Psalmist

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *

**nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!**

Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *

and they meditate on his law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *

everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; *

they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes, *

nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *

but the way of the wicked is doomed.

The Psalm Prayer

Giver of life, save us from the desert of faithlessness
and nourish us with the living water of your word, that we
may bring forth fruit that will last, in the name of Jesus
Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

The Reading

Matthew 13: 53 - 58

Reader

When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour except in their own hometown and in their own house." And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

Response

*After a brief period of reflection
the Reader says:*

Blessed are the meek for they shall
inherit the Earth.

Thanks be to God!

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant

Let us affirm our Faith as we recite the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

Officiant

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We offer the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world, as we respond to the bidding “Loving God” with “Hear our Prayers”.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Diocese of Peterborough - the Church of England; the Rt. Revd. Debbie Sellin, Bishop. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In the Anglican - Lutheran - Moravian Cycle, we pray for The Rt. Revd., Dr. Lynne McNaughton, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Kootenay; The dean, council, and congregations of the Vancouver Island Region of the British Columbia Synod; and The people and ministries of the Southern Province of the Moravian Church in America. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In the Diocese of New Westminster, we pray for Shane, our Primate; John, our Archbishop; Stephanie, our Priest; St. Hildegard's Sanctuary @ St Faith, Vancouver – The Revd.

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

Officiant

Melanie Calabrigo; The children and youth of our church, and those ministries by, with, and for them: The Diocesan Youth Movement and parish youth leaders. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In this Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for Bishop Benny and the people of Northern Philippines; for our sister parish of St. Gabriel, the Archangel, Lubon; and for all who attended our Parish Development Forum as we seek to preserve our historic Cathedral while, at the same time, trying to provide affordable housing for the people of New Westminster. Loving God, **Hear our Prayers.**

Receive these, our prayers, that we may love you with our whole being and willingly share the concerns of our neighbours. **Amen.**

The Collect

Officiant

Almighty and everlasting God,
you kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your
servant Bernard, so that he became a shining light in
the midst of your Church. Kindle in us such faith, that
by deeds of love we may show forth the light of Christ
and rouse this present age to desire your perfect
beauty; through him who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant

Believing in the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

The Sending Forth

Deacon (or Officiant)

Let us go forth into the night, rejoicing
in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Officiant

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the
love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit, be with us all evermore.

Amen.