

VESPERS on the eve of the Commemoration of Willibrord, Archbishop of Utrecht

Missionary, 739

2025 Nov 06

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

Willibrord was an early medieval monk who pioneered the Anglo-Saxon mission to northwestern Europe. Beginning in the year 690, he devoted four decades to preaching the gospel and laid the foundations of the Church in modern Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. Willibrord was an Englishman by birth, but chose to pursue his vocation elsewhere, believing that exile from his native country on earth would make him a better pilgrim on the way to his eternal homeland in heaven. With twelve companions, he sailed around England, across the North Sea, and landed at the mouth of the river Rhine, where they evangelized whole districts, and established monasteries staffed by other Anglo-Saxons who heard of his work and crossed the North Sea to join him in his pilgrimage of preaching. He was made archbishop of Utrecht and used this position to organize the Church in the Low Countries.

After retiring to a monastery in Luxemburg, he died on this date in 739, in his eighty-first year, happy to leave the lands of pilgrimage for his true native country on high.

Adapted 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.

Act of Praise

O Light, Whose Splendour Thrills
Common Praise 16

Officiant or Cantor

O light, whose splendour thrills and gladdens with radiance brighter than the sun, pure gleam of God's unending glory, O Jesus, blest Anointed One;

as twilight hovers near at sunset, and lamps are lit, and children nod, in evening hymns we lift our voices to Father, Spirit, Son: one God.

In all life's brilliant, timeless moments, let faithful voices sing your praise, O Son of God, our lifebestower, whose glory brightens endless days.

The Psalm

Psalm 98: 1 - 4

Psalmist

Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvellous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm * has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in
the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, * and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

The Psalm Prayer

Lord God, we see your righteous rule in all your works, and we join our voices with the song of your whole creation in praising you, in and through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

The Reading Luke 10: 1 - 9

Reader

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this House!.' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Response

After a brief period of reflection the Reader says:

Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the Earth.

Thanks be to God!

Act of Faith

Officiant

Let us affirm our faith as we recite "Hear, O Israel"

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

Officiant

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world. Open our hearts in compassion as we offer our prayers on behalf of the church and the world, responding to the bidding "God of Glory" with "Hear our prayers".

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Church of the Province of West Africa, the Most Revd. Dr. Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, Primate; and the members and associates of the Society of Ordained Scientists. God of Glory, "**Hear our prayers**."

In the Anglican - Lutheran - Moravian cycle, we pray for The Rt. Rev. Leslie Wheeler-Dame, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Yukon; The president, faculty, students, and staff of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon; and the people and ministries of the Alaska Province. God of Glory, "Hear our prayers".

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

Officiant

In our companion diocese, we pray for Bishop Benny, the people of Northern Philippines, and our sister parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel, Lubon. God of Glory, "Hear our prayers".

In our diocese, we pray for Shane, our primate; John, our archbishop; Stephanie, our priest; Saint Aidan & Saint Bartholomew, Gibsons - The Revd Joyce Parry-Moore; and the Archdeaconry of Westminster – Archdeacon Ruth Monette, Regional Archdeacon. God of Glory, "Hear our prayers".

In this Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for all the saints, past and present, who have given of their time, treasure and/or talents to assist God's work in this place, and for all in need of healing (please add any one you wish to name, either silently or aloud). God of Glory, "Hear our prayers".

Holy One, Hear our prayers that we may love you with our whole being and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors.

The Collect

Officiant

Lord our God,

you made your servant Willibrord a pilgrim for the sake of your gospel, and by his faithful labours you revealed to those who served false idols the true way and worship of Christ.

Guide our thoughts and direct our wills, that our steps may never waiver nor fail in the perfect freedom of your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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.

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 Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.