



# **VESPERS** **(Evening Prayer)** **Second Thursday in Advent**

**2025 Dec 11**

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.

# Pray Without Ceasing

The Anglican Church of Canada



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# The Invitation

## *Officiant*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of light and darkness, to you be glory and praise for ever. As evening falls, you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. May your word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path so that we may behold your coming among us. Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness and free our tongues to sing your praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

# 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

## Northern Advent

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### *Officiant or Cantor*

November feels so final - the trees so bleak and stark,  
the land so cold and silent, our hearts November dark.  
Like land that waits for sunrise, shiv'ring till the dawn,  
keeping watch this Northern Advent, we sing out life's true song.

**(Chorus)** We are not the morning, We are not the dawn,  
We are just the land that waits the first light of the sun.

Winter holds us in her pocket, snow covers life in drifts,  
the frost shapes patterns on the glass showing every human rift.  
The poor, the frail, the lonely wait in winter's deep despair,  
keeping watch this Northern Advent, for the birth-cry of your  
care.

**(Chorus)**

In our November endings, winter fears of grief and loss,  
keep all that's human, holy, through your Advent, Birth, and  
Cross. Sun's low on the horizon, Our nights outlast our days,  
keeping watch this Northern Advent, we await your coming  
Grace.

**(Chorus)**

# The Psalm

Psalm 72: 1 - 7, 18 - 19

## *Psalmist*

Give the king your justice, O God, \*  
**and your righteousness to the king's son.**

That he may rule your people righteously \*  
**and the poor with justice.**

May the mountains bring prosperity for the people, \*  
**and the little hills bring righteousness.**

He shall defend the needy among the people, \*  
**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
**from one generation to another.**

May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, \*  
**like showers that water the earth.**

In his time shall the righteousness flourish; \*  
**and peace abound, until the moon is no more.**

## The Psalm (Cont'd)

Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, \*  
**who alone does wonderful deeds.**

And blessed be his glorious name for ever! \*  
**and may all the earth be filled with his glory.**  
**Amen. Amen.**

## The Psalm Prayer

O God, bring our nation and all nations to a sense of justice and equity, that poverty, oppression, and violence may vanish and all may know peace and plenty. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

# The Reading

## Matthew 3: 1 - 12

### *Reader*

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor';

## The Reading (Cont'd)

For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

# The Responsory

My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation: in your word is my hope.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

There is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be held in awe.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence, so that we may behold your power and glory.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

# The Canticle

*“The Song of Mary” (Luke 1: 46-55)*

## *Officiant:*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in  
God my Saviour, \*  
**for you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant.**  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
**you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is  
your name.**  
You have mercy on those who fear you, \*  
**from generation to generation.**  
You have shown strength with your arm \*  
**and scattered the proud in their conceit,**  
casting down the mighty from their thrones \*  
**and lifting up the lowly.**  
You have filled the hungry with good things \*  
**and sent the rich away empty.**  
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, \*  
**to remember the promise of mercy,**  
the promise made to our ancestors, \*  
**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word, and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

# The Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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.**

# The Litany

## *Officiant*

Watchful at all times, let us pray to God for strength to stand with confidence. God, our Maker and Redeemer, fill the earth with justice and compassion.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Establish righteousness in the nations.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick, and raise up all who have fallen.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Shine the light of Christ on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Empower us, with all the saints in light, to be your witnesses in the world.

**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

# Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

## *Officiant*

God of Hope, you raised up John the baptizer as a herald who calls us to conversion. As we joyfully await the glorious coming of Christ, we pray to you for the needs of the church and the world, responding to the bidding “God of joy and love” with **“Hear our Prayers”**.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Diocese of Sabah, Church of the Province of South East Asia, Rt. Revd. Melter Jiki Tais, Bishop. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers**.

In the Lutheran, Anglican, Moravian cycle, we pray for Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate, ACC; National Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, ELCIC; and Revd. David Bennett, President, Provincial Elders’ Conference of the Northern Province of the MCA. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers**.

In our Diocese, we pray for Archdeacon Adam Yates (Granville); Christ Church, Hope (supply); St. Laurence, Coquitlam, Revd. Philip Cochrane, Revd. Patricia Ratcliffe. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers**.

## Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

In our companion diocese, we pray for Bishop Benny and the people of Northern Philippines and for our sister parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel, Lubon. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our local community, we give thanks for all who give time, talent, and treasure to the building up of God's kingdom through HTC and for the work of the Property Redevelopment Committee in securing a partner to enable us to move forward in the development project to seismically upgrade the cathedral and build a new residential tower with ministry space for the parish. God of joy and love, **Hear our Prayers.**

Hear our humble prayer, that we may serve you in holiness and faith and give voice to your presence among us until the day of the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

# The Collect

## *Officiant*

Almighty God,  
who sent your servant John the Baptist  
to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah,  
inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth,  
to turn our disobedient hearts to you,  
that when Christ shall come again to be our judge,  
we may stand with confidence before his glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

## *Officiant*

Awaiting his coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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 bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant*

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching  
and waiting.  
**Amen.**