



VESPERS **(Evening Prayer)** **Third Thursday in Advent**

2025 Dec 18

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 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

On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry
Common Praise 103

Officiant or Cantor

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces
that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken,
for he brings glad tidings of the King of Kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin, make
straight the way for God within. Prepare we in our
hearts a home, where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge,
and our great reward; without thy grace we
waste away, like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and bid the
fallen sinner stand; shine forth, and let thy
light restore earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent
doth thy people free, whom with the Father
we adore and Holy Ghost for evermore.

The Psalm

Psalm 146: 4 - 9

Psalmist

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all
that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever.

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the
eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.

The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; *
**he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

The Lord shall reign for ever; *
**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!**

The Psalm Prayer

God our creator and redeemer, inspire your people,
in prosperity or adversity, to turn always to you,
eternal source of life, health, and goodness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Reading

Matthew 11: 2 - 11

Reader

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Responsory

Reader

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

“A Song of the Spirit”

(Revelation 22:12–14, 16, 17)

Officiant:

“Behold, I am coming soon,” says the Lord,

“and bringing my reward with me, *

to give everyone according to their deeds.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, *

the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are those who do God’s commandments,

that they may have the right to the tree of life, *

and may enter into the city through the gates.

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, *

with this testimony for all the churches.

I am the root and the offspring of David, *

I am the bright morning star.”

“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride; *

“Come!” let each hearer reply.

Come forward, you who are thirsty, *

let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

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

Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the glorious coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world, responding to the bidding “Loving God” with “**Hear our Prayers.**”

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Diocese of Salisbury, the Church of England; The Rt. Revd. Stephen Lake, Bishop. Loving God, “**Hear our Prayers.**”

In the Lutheran, Anglican, Moravian cycle, we pray for Dr. Andrea Mann, General Secretary, and the staff of the General Secretary’s Office; Peace Anthony-Idoko, Director of Finance and Administration, and the staff of Finance and Administration; Mr. David Jones, District President, and the members of Board of Elders of the Canadian District of the Moravian Church Northern Province. Loving God, “**Hear our Prayers.**”

In our Diocese, we pray for Archdeacon Andrew Halladay (Lougheed); St. John the Divine, Maple Ridge - The Revd Vineet Samuel; St. Hildegard’s Sanctuary @ St. Faith, Vancouver – The Revd Melanie Calabrigo. Loving God, “**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. Loving God, “**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 Holy Trinity Cathedral and we pray for all in need of care, sustenance, and/or housing as well as all who live with any form of addiction. Loving God, “**Hear our Prayers.**”

God of joy and exultation, you strengthen what is weak; you enrich the poor and give hope to those who live in fear. Look upon our needs this day. Make us grateful for the good news of salvation and keep us faithful in your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Collect

Officiant

God of power and mercy,
you call us once again
to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes, he may find us
waiting in awe and wonder for him
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

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.