

VESPERS

March 12, 2026

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.

Presider

Gathering

Welcome, everyone. As evening comes, we gather to rest in God's presence and reflect on the day.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Opening Prayer

God of light and peace,
as the day ends and shadows lengthen,
draw us into your presence.

Quiet our minds, steady our hearts,
and make this time holy.

Amen.

Confession

Leader:

Let us take a moment of silence to reflect on the day.

All:

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways.**

Amen.

Leader

May the God of mercy grant us forgiveness of our sins,
the grace to amend our lives,
and the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Psalm

Psalm 27:1-6;

1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall, I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me, uttering slanders against me, my adversaries and foes, they shall stumble and fall.

3 Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high upon a rock.

6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

The Reading

Joel 2:12-113

¹² Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
and relenting from punishment.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Short Homily (Lent)

*Inspired by Anglican Archbishops of
the last 75 years*

Beloved in Christ,
Lent is sometimes imagined as a season of heaviness, but Anglican archbishops of our own era have consistently reminded the Church that Lent is, at its heart, a season of truth, courage, and renewal.

One might hear an archbishop say that Lent is the time when God invites us to become more fully alive by becoming more fully honest. This honesty is not meant to burden us; it is meant to free us.

Rowan Williams often emphasized that repentance is a return to reality—a stepping out of the illusions we build around ourselves and into the steady, healing light of God. When Joel calls us to “return with all our heart,” he is summoning us to clarity, not shame.

Short Homily (Lent)

*Inspired by Anglican Archbishops of
the last 75 years*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu spoke of repentance as an act of hope. Turning back to God is choosing to believe that mercy is stronger than failure, and that compassion can reshape even the most wounded parts of our lives. Lent becomes a season in which we allow God to make us instruments of justice, mercy, and reconciliation.

And Archbishop Michael Ramsey reminded the Church that Lent always bends toward Easter. Our disciplines—prayer, fasting, generosity—are not ends in themselves. They clear away the clutter so that joy has room to grow. They prepare us not for despair but for resurrection.

So, as we continue through this Lenten season, let us walk with honesty, with courage, and with hope. Let us trust that the God who calls us to return is the same God who restores us and leads us toward the dawn of Easter.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

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 neighbor as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.

Officiant

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

Let us bring our prayers before God, responding to the bidding “God of Love” with “**Hear our prayers**”.

For the Church and all who follow Christ, God of Love, **Hear our prayers**.

For peace in the world, God of Love, **Hear our prayers**.

For the community of Tumbler Ridge, God of Love, **Hear our prayers**

In this Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for
and any others you wish to name, either silently or aloud...
God of Love, **Hear our prayers**.

Grant that these prayers, O God, may be enfolded by our commitment not only to pray them, but also to live them in your Son's name.

Amen.

Officiant

The Collect

God of the wilderness and the well-worn path,
you call us to return with honest hearts.

In this season of repentance,
strip away what distracts us,
strengthen what is good within us,

Amen.

Officiant

The Lord's Prayer

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 / Presider

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

Thanks be to God.

Presider

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.