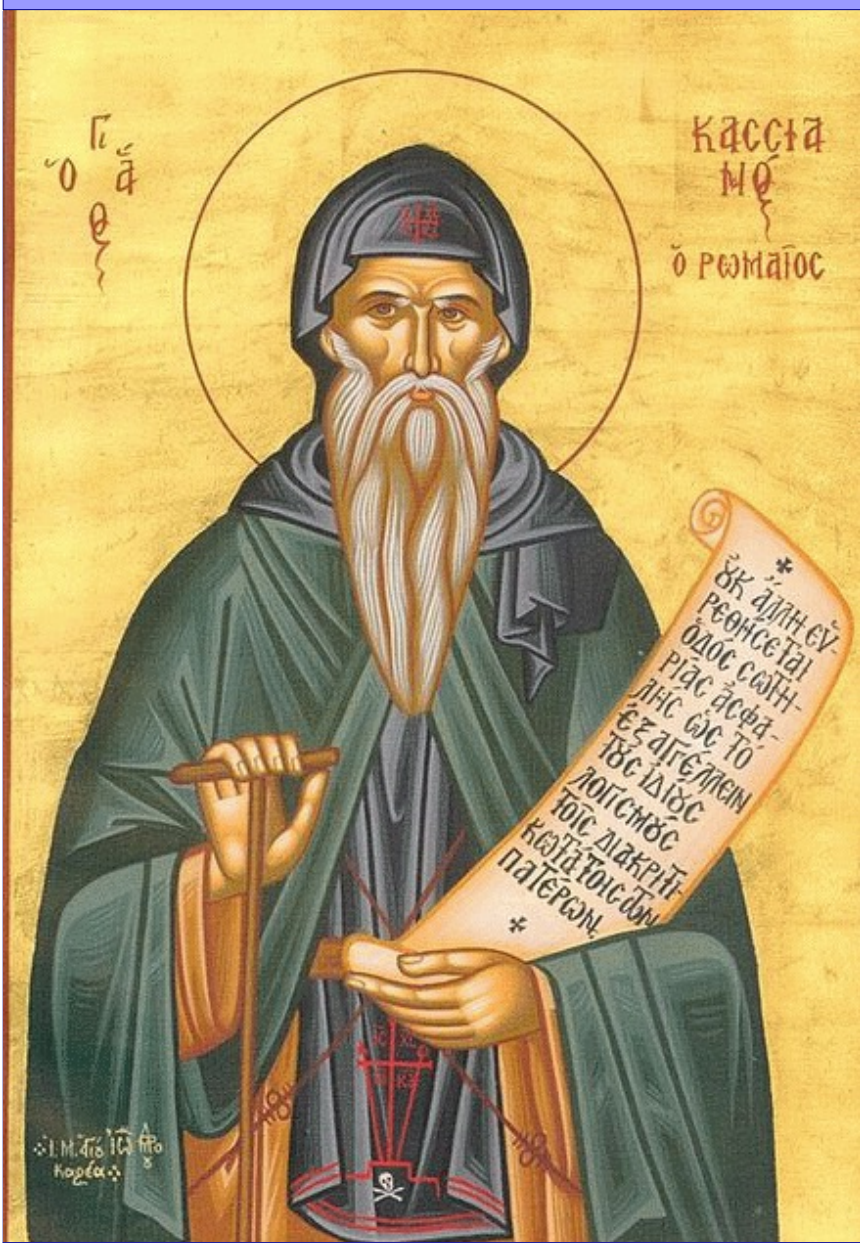




VESPERS on the Lesser Feast of John Cassian

Circa 435

2026 July 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

Born in Romania around 365, John Cassian struggled with the problems of living the Christian life in a time when the world seemed to be falling apart. As a young man he travelled to a monastery in Bethlehem and later moved to Egypt, where he sought the tutelage of the great founders of the ascetic movement of the desert, such as Evagrius and Macarius. At the heart of desert monasticism was the idea that the image of God in each person, tarnished by sin but not destroyed, yearns - and has the capacity - to love God with the purity of heart with which God loves us. Their aim in desert solitude was to rid themselves of the anxieties and distractions that called their attention away from loving God. Cassian was initiated into this tradition before political pressures arising from theological controversies forced him to leave Egypt in about 399. After a period in Constantinople, where he was ordained as a deacon, he moved to southern Gaul. In about 415, he founded a house in Marseilles for monks, and later a house for nuns. Though Cassian's goal, like that of his desert mentors, was the perfection of the individual soul, he insisted that no one should embark on a monastic vocation alone.

The Preparation (Cont'd)

Rather, one should enter a house where others are pursuing the same goal, live according to a time-tested rule, and thereby gain the guidance and companionship of the community. Though Cassian remained committed to the desert ideal of individual perfection, his insistence on the necessity of Christian community and loving moderation was the basis for Benedictine monasticism. It was perhaps a paradox that only in community could the Christian soul “lose sight of earthly things in proportion to the inspiration of its purity so that, with the inner gaze of the soul, it sees the glorified Jesus coming in the splendour of his majesty.” Cassian died in Marseilles around the year 435.

From: “***Lesser Feasts and Fasts***”
The Episcopal Church of the United States.

The Preparation (Cont'd)

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
Fathers 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 Father,
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 145: 1 - 7

Psalmist

I will exalt you, O God my King, *
and bless your name for ever and ever.

Every day will I bless you *
and praise your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to his greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.

I will ponder the glorious splendour of your majesty *
and all your marvellous works.

They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your
great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

The Psalm Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace to know you more and more, that knowing we may love and loving we may praise, that the whole world may hear your name and worship you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Reading

John 1: 1 - 14

Reader

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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 “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

As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God, and guided them in the way of your love, so listen now to those who call upon you as we respond to the bidding “Gracious God” with “Hear our Prayers”.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles – The Scottish Episcopal Church; The Rt. Revd. David Railton, Bishop. Gracious God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In the Anglican-Lutheran-Moravian cycle, we pray for The Most Revd. Greg Kerr-Wilson, Archbishop, and the people of the Diocese of Calgary; the assistant to the bishop and the staff of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories; and the Canadian Moravian Foundation. Gracious God, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our diocesan cycle, we pray for The Justice and Peace Unit - The Revd Margaret Marquardt, The Revd. Gail Newell; Holy Spirit Anglican Church, Whonnock – The Revd. Vineet Samuel. Gracious God, **Hear our Prayers.**

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

Officiant

In this Parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for The Most Revd. Shane Parker, our Primate; The Most Revd. Chris Harper, the National Indigenous Archbishop; The Most Revd. John Stephens, our Metropolitan; The Revd. Stephanie Shepard, our Priest; Bishop Benny Lang-Akan and the people of Northern Philippines; our sister Parish of St. Gabriel, the Archangel in Lubon; those in need of healing; Carole N., Tom S., Kyumin L., Marilyn L., Natacha W. Please add any others you wish to name, either silently or aloud; Gracious God, **Hear our Prayers.**

Move us to praise your gracious will, for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death and opened for us the hidden ways of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect

Officiant

Holy God, whose beloved Son Jesus Christ blessed the pure in heart: Grant that we, together with your servant John Cassian and in union with his prayers, may ever seek the purity with which to behold you as you are; one God in Trinity of persons 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 bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Officiant

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.