

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Vespers

Thursday September 17, 2026

Cantor (words in **bold**),
Reader, (Epistle and Gospel)
Psalmist, (not words in **bold**)
Prayer (please watch for <pause>)

Territorial Acknowledgment

Officiant/Cantor

We are gathered here on the traditional and uncaded territory of the Halkomelem-speaking Salish peoples.

May Christ lead us on right pathways as we seek truth, and reconciliation in action.

The Preparation

Officiant

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Greeting and Call to Prayer

Officiant/People

Open our hearts to the joy, light and peace found in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

<A period of silence is kept, after which it is said>

O God, as the evening shadows lengthen, we commit into your hands the cares and labors of this day.

Look down from your heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with your celestial brightness, and drive far from us all the snares of the enemy.

Protect our homes and our loved ones, grant us quiet rest and a peaceful night, and raise us up again in the morning to serve you with a joyful heart; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night, he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying, 'Let those men go.' And the jailer reported the message to Paul, saying, 'The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore, come out now and go in peace.' But Paul replied, 'They have beaten us in public, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they going to discharge us in secret? Certainly not! Let them come and take us out themselves.' The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens; so, they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home; and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

Hoy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Amen

Responsorial Psalm 103:1-12

Psalmist / Cantor

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

He redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

He satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Amen

John 12: 27-36

Reader

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say — “Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The crowd answered him, ‘We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?’ Jesus said to them, ‘The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.’ After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom,

Amen

The Apostles' Creed

People

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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.

Prayers of the People

Prayers

Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Let us pray for the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples. Let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor: Lord, hear our prayer.

Give to your Church grace to speak the word of pardon and show the power of forgiveness by example. May your clergy and laity be strengthened in godliness and resistance to sin. Let all who confess their faith in Christ be slow to find fault in others. Quick to forgive offenses and tireless in working toward right relationships.

Cantor: Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to God alone, that they may have a place in his eternal kingdom. <pause> ... Let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor: Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayers of the People

Prayers

We ask for a new spirit of generosity for those who have much, that they moved to compassion for those who have little. May those who hold resources and authority exercise them with mercy. Please bring to the world right relationships between all nations... Let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders in the world that are using fear and punishment, Constrain them, We ask that you raise people up to lead us in peace. Thy will be done in all the nations. ... Let us pray to the Lord.

Cantor: Lord, hear our prayer.

We offer our prayers through Christ, who has cancelled our debt of sin.

Amen

Collects & Blessing

Officiant

COLLECT FROM "PRAYER WITHOUT CEASING"

“O Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow after us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.” **Amen.**

CONCLUSION

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.**