



VESPERS
on the eve of the Holy Day of
Saint James the Apostle

2025 July 24

The Preparation

Officiant

Today we honour Saint James the Apostle, usually described in the Gospels as “the brother of John” but also known as James “the Greater” to distinguish him from two others with the same name. He was a Galilean fisherman, and with his brother John he left his home and his trade in obedience to the call of Jesus. With Peter and John he belonged to an especially privileged group of disciples whom Jesus chose to be witnesses of the Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus’s daughter, and the agony in the garden of Gethse’mane.

James and John once expressed a willingness to share the cup of Christ’s sufferings, and in the case of James this was realized very soon after the resurrection. According to the Book of Acts, King Herod launched a persecution of the Church and had James beheaded, thus making him the first of the twelve apostles to suffer death for the sake of Christ.

Adapted from “*For All the Saints*”, Anglican Church of Canada

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

O Light, Whose Splendour Thrills
Common Praise 16

Officiant or Cantor

O Light, whose splendour thrills and gladdens with
radiance brighter than the sun, pure gleam of God's
unending glory, O Jesus, blest, Anointed One;

as twilight hovers near at sunset, and lamps are lit,
and children nod, in evening hymns we lift our voices
to Father, Spirit, Son: one God.

In all life's brilliant, timeless moments, let faithful
voices sing your praise, O Son of God, our life
bestower, whose glory lightens endless days.

The Psalm

Psalm 7: 1 - 10

Psalmist

O Lord my God, I take refuge in you; *
save and deliver me from all who pursue me;

Lest like a lion they tear me in pieces *
and snatch me away with none to deliver me.

O Lord my God, if I have done these things: *
if there is any wickedness in my hands,

If I have repaid my friend with evil, *
**or plundered him who without cause is my
enemy,**

Then let my enemy pursue and overtake me, *
**trample my life into the ground, and lay my
honour in the dust.**

Stand up, O Lord, in your wrath; *
rise up against the fury of my enemies.

The Psalm (Cont'd)

Awake, O my God, decree justice; *
**let the assembly of the peoples gather round
you.**

Be seated on your lofty throne, O Most High; *
O Lord, judge the nations.

Give judgement for me according to my
righteousness, O Lord, *
and according to my innocence, O Most High.

Let the malice of the wicked come to an end, but
establish the righteous; *
**for you test the mind and heart, O righteous
God.**

The Psalm Prayer

Righteous judge of the nations, you know the secrets of our hearts; our sins are not hidden from you. Rise to our defence and strengthen us in the faith, that we may struggle against evil and bear witness to your justice, in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

The Reading

Matthew 20: 20 - 28

Reader

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

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 the Apostles' Creed:

**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.**

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings

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Friends in Christ, God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers as dear to us as our own needs. Loving our neighbors as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and petitions on behalf of the church and the world, responding to the bidding “God of Love” with “Hear our Prayers”.

In the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, we pray for The Diocese of Western Newfoundland – The Anglican Church of Canada, The Rt. Revd. John Organ, Bishop. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

In the Anglican - Lutheran - Moravian cycle, we pray for The Most Rev. Greg Kerr-Wilson, Archbishop, and the clergy and 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. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

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In our Diocesan cycle, we pray for St. Faith, Vancouver-Archdeacon Adam Yates; and Dr Shakuntala Soden, Diocesan Refugee Administrator. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

In this parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for Bishop Benny and the people of Northern Philippines; our sister parish of St. Gabriel, the Archangel, in Lubon; for the Mayor and members of City Council; for the members of the Altar Guild; the coffee servers; all who assist with the community brunch; and any others you wish to name, either silently or aloud. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

Hear our prayers, God of power, and through the ministry of your Son free us from the grip of the tomb, that we may desire you as the fullness of life and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. **Amen.**

The Collect

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Almighty God,
we remember today your servant James,
the first apostle to give his life
for faith in Jesus Christ.
Pour out on all your people
that spirit of self-denying service
which is the mark of true leadership.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, 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 go forth into the night, rejoicing
in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Officiant

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

Amen.