



VESPERS **on the Memorial of** **Augustine, Bishop of Hippo,** **Teacher of the Faith**

387

2025 August 28

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

Augustine of Hippo was a North African bishop who died in the year 430 — and a teacher of the faith whose thought has continued to shape the mind and imagination of the western Church ever since. Augustine was raised a Christian but wandered away from the Church in his youth. His restless intellect and fierce ambition led him into a neo-Christian cult and from his small home town in North Africa to Carthage, then to Rome, and finally to the imperial capital of Milan. There he underwent a spiritual and intellectual crisis which brought him back to the Church; he was baptized at Milan in the year 387, at the age of thirty-three. Shortly afterwards he resigned his post in the imperial government and returned to North Africa, where he hoped to live as a monk in company with his friends. But during a visit to the North African port of Hippo Regius he was seized by the congregation and forcibly ordained as a presbyter. A couple of years later he became their bishop and served them in this office until his death three and a half decades later. There is hardly an aspect of Christian thought that Augustine's own thinking did not

The Preparation (Cont'd)

influence. But his work as a theologian grew out of his vocation as a pastor, and he usually would not address an issue unless it affected his flock or was raised by a correspondent. He was able to talk on many different levels at once, combining practical instruction, the interpretation of Scripture, and theological insights of rare speculative power in a style of writing and speaking which had few equals in its day. Augustine also possessed enormous personal charm, a quality which made all sorts of people take pleasure in his company. This attractiveness may still be met and felt by those who choose to engage Augustine's life by reading what he wrote. In commemorating him today, the anniversary of his death in the year 430, we are not only remembering an influential intellect of the Church but also are honouring a whole person who gave his heart as well as his mind to the task of growing up, with others, "to the measure of the full stature 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 102: 19 - 28

Psalmist

For the Lord looked down from his holy place on high; *
from the heavens he beheld the earth;

That he might hear the groan of the captive *
and set free those condemned to die;

That they may declare in Zion the name of the Lord, *
and his praise in Jerusalem;

When the peoples are gathered together, *
and the kingdoms also, to serve the Lord.

He has brought down my strength before my time; *
he has shortened the number of my days;

And I said, "O my God,
do not take me away in the midst of my days; *
your years endure throughout all generations.

In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations
of the earth, *
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

The Psalm (Cont'd)

They shall perish, but you will endure;
they all shall wear out like a garment; *
**as clothing you will change them,
and they shall be changed;**

But you are always the same, *
and your years will never end.

The children of your servants shall continue, *
**and their offspring shall stand fast in your
sight”**

The Psalm Prayer

God of unchanging mercy, look with compassion upon
all who-suffer: the sick and the friendless, the
homeless and the captive, the weary and the
depressed. Be present to them in the power of your
healing love; give them health, comfort, and hope; and
bring them to share in the life of your risen Son, our
Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Reading

Matthew 23: 8 - 12

Reader

You are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

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

Officiant

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits. We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world, responding to the bidding “Gracious God” with “Hear our Prayers.”

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Diocese of Ohaji / Egbema– The Church of Nigeria, The Rt. Revd. Dr. Chidi Collins Oparaojiaku, Bishop; and for the mainly Anglican-Episcopal members, companions, and associates of the Society of Ordained Scientists as they strive to bring faith to the scientific community, science to the church, and both to the world at large. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

In the Anglican-Lutheran-Moravian cycle, we pray for The Rt. Rev. Richard Reed, Bishop; The Rt. Rev Adam Halkett, Bishop of Missinippi, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Saskatchewan; The dean, council, and congregations of the South West Area of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

Officiant

In our Diocese, we pray for St. Thomas, Vancouver – The Rev. Steve Black and The Diocesan Ecumenical Multifaith Unit – The Revd David Taylor, Ms Donna Wong-Juliani, ODNW. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

In this parish of Holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray with thanksgiving for Archbishop John; Bishop Benny and the people of Northern Philippines; our sister parish of St. Gabriel, the Archangel, Lubon; for all who assist in parish affairs; and for all who need assistance of any kind. Please add your personal prayers, either silently or aloud. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

Guide us in the path of discipleship, so that, as you have blessed us, we may be a blessing for others, bringing the promise of the kingdom near by our words and deeds.
Amen.

The Collect

Officiant

God, ancient of days and for ever new,
you are the light of the minds that know you, the life
of the souls that love you, and the strength of the
hearts that serve you. Remember, we pray, your
servant Augustine, and grant us so to rejoice in his
teaching and holy life, that we may set our minds on
the beauty of your truth and order our desires by the
rule of your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who
is alive 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.