



**VESPERS**  
**on the Commemoration of the**  
**First Anglican Communion in “Canada”**

**1578**

**2025 September 4**

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*

In the summer of 1578 an English fleet appeared off the coast of Baffin Island, under the command of Martin Frobisher, who had made two previous voyages to the Arctic shores of “Turtle Island”. On the second voyage Frobisher’s crew thought they found gold, so the expedition of 1578, which included a Church of England priest named Robert Wolfall, came to settle the unknown land and mine its riches. On Sunday, September third, the company of the ship “*Anne Francis*” gathered on the shore of Baffin Island and, as the captain later reported, “Master Wolfall .... preached a godly sermon, which being ended he celebrated also a Communion upon the land .... The celebration of the divine mystery was the first sign, seal and confirmation of Christ’s name, death and passion ever known in these quarters. Master Wolfall made sermons and celebrated the Communion at sundry other times in several and sundry ships, because the whole company could never meet together at anyone place.” Wolfall was the vicar of West Harptree, in the diocese of Bath and Wells, when he joined Frobisher’s third expedition. He

## The Preparation (Cont'd)

was a graduate of Eton and King's College, Cambridge, who (as the captain of the *Anne Francis* tells us) had “a good honest woman to wife and very towardly children” and was himself “of good reputation among the best.” Despite his professional standing and large family, he chose to take part in Frobisher's arduous expedition because he desired to sustain the faith of his comrades and, if the opportunity arose, to preach the gospel among the native peoples. In the event, Frobisher decided to give up the idea of establishing a permanent settlement on Baffin Island and took the entire fleet back to England in mid-September. Almost a century would pass before Anglicans again celebrated the eucharist on “Turtle Island” soil.

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 Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ  
(Common Praise 14)

## *Officiant or Cantor*

O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the  
Father's 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 Farther, 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 78: 18 - 25

## *Psalmist*

They tested God in their hearts, \*  
**demanding food for their craving.**

They railed against God and said, \*  
**“Can God set a table in the wilderness?”**

True, he struck the rock, the waters gushed out, and  
the gullies overflowed; \*  
**but is he able to give bread or to provide meat  
for his people?”**

When the Lord heard this, he was full of wrath; \*  
**a fire was kindled against Jacob,  
and his anger mounted against Israel;**

For they had no faith in God, \*  
**nor did they put their trust in his saving power.**

So he commanded the clouds above \*  
**and opened the doors of heaven.**

## The Psalm (Cont'd)

He rained down manna upon them to eat \*  
**and gave them grain from heaven.**

So mortals ate the bread of angels; \*  
**he provided for them food enough.**

## The Psalm Prayer

God of pilgrims, strengthen our faith, we pray. Guide us through the uncertainties of our journey, and hold before us the vision of your eternal kingdom, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# The Reading

## John 6: 53 - 59

### *Reader*

Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.



# 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*

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 neighbours as ourselves, we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions on behalf of the church and the world, responding to the bidding “God of Love” with “Hear our Prayers”.

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for The Diocese of Oke-Osun – The Church of Nigeria, The Rt. Revd. Oluwagbemiro Fabuluje, Bishop. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

In the Anglican - Lutheran - Moravian cycle, we pray for The Rev. Father Chad McCharles, Bishop, the clergy and people of the Diocese of Saskatoon; Bishop Kathy Martin, the people and rostered ministers of the British Columbia Synod. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

In our diocesan cycle, we pray for St. Mary, Kerrisdale -The Revd Lindsay Hills, The Revd Roberta Fraser; the Mission to Seafarers - The Revd Peter Smyth; Archdeacon Nick Pang, (Vancouver) Executive Archdeacon. God of Love, **Hear our Prayers.**

# Intercessions, Petitions & Thanksgivings (Cont'd)

## *Officiant*

In this parish of holy Trinity Cathedral, we pray for John, our Archbishop; Bishop Benny and the people of Northern Philippines; our sister parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel, Lubon; those in need of healing: Gerry J, Sheila G, Marilyn L., Natacha W.; for those who mourn, especially the Kendall and Crawley families; for our neighbours: home owners, renters, and those seeking safe housing. Please add your own prayers, 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

*Officiant*

Eternal God,  
you caused a company of English explorers,  
when they entered this land in quest of wealth,  
to remember the riches of our crucified Lord  
in the mystery of bread and wine.

Grant us, who now prosper beyond their imagining,  
ever to seek the true wealth which comes from  
above; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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*

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.**